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TODAY THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT



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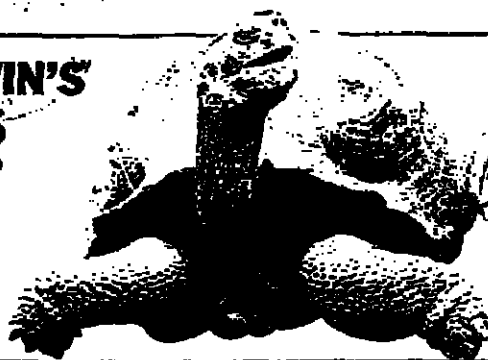
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Kenny Dalglish? PAGE 45



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**CAN DARWIN'S
TORTOISES
BE SAVED?**

Mystery illness
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TOMORROW

A £19,000
JEEP CHEROKEE



'Others must not go through this'

6-day ordeal in court for raped woman

By JOANNA BALE, STEPHEN FARRELL, RICHARD FORD AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE Government is to examine a trial in which a convicted rapist was allowed to cross-examine his victim in court for six days about the intimate details of her ordeal.

Ralston Edwards, 42, exercised his legal right to represent himself when he appeared at the Old Bailey accused of raping a 34-year-old mother of two in an attack lasting 16 hours.

After the jury — which included five women — found him guilty on two counts of rape, his victim said: "I feel like I have been raped twice... be in his filthy den and once in front of judge and jury in a British court of law."

"I don't want other women to go through what I have been through. The law has got to be changed."

She was supported by women's groups, who fear that other victims will be intimidated against giving evidence; and Sir Frederick Lawson, a retired Lord Justice of Appeal, who questioned whether the trial judge should have allowed Edwards to continue. "I am just astonished, astonished that this cross-examination has been allowed to go on for six days," Sir Frederick said. "I cannot conceive how it lasted that long or how some of those questions could be relevant. The judge can stop irrelevant questions and what is more, a judge has a duty to do so."

Last night the Home Office said it would examine the case. "The Government is concerned to ensure that victims of these heinous crimes are adequately protected and we will be giving further consideration to the issues raised by this case," a spokesman said.

Home Office officials are expected to hold discussions with the Lord Chancellor's Department to see whether the law needs to be tightened. The Government could act swiftly and include a measure in the Criminal Justice Bill that Michael Howard is to introduce in the next session of Parliament, which begins in October.

Under the Criminal Procedure Act 1965, defendants have the right to call witnesses and address the jury. Judges



Ann Goddard, QC,
the trial judge

cannot force legal representation on the accused, but must guide him on points of law. In principle the defendant is required to follow the same rules as a trained barrister.

The trial judge, Ann Goddard, QC, will have been aware that too many interventions could also form the basis of an appeal on the ground that the jury was swayed by them.

Patricia May, a barrister who acted in the first Old Bailey trial in which victims of alleged sexual assault were allowed to give evidence behind screens, said that Parliament should look again at the law. "Anybody has the right to represent themselves. It is clearly an age-old right," she said. "But a query does arise when one is dealing with a case where the victim can be very much intimidated by the sight of a defendant in person."

The Criminal Justice Act 1991 withdrew the right of suspects conducting their own defence to cross-examine their alleged victims if they are children. "There is no restriction in relation to adult victims at all and that is why I think perhaps the law ought to be looking to restrict it further," Ms May, a member of the Criminal Bar Association, said.

During the latest case the victim had to leave the witness box at one stage after being repeatedly asked by Edwards to describe the sexual details of the attack in graphic and trivial detail.

It was the third time that Edwards has appeared in court charged with rape. In

1984 he was jailed for three years for raping a neighbour in south London after threatening her 16-month-old baby with a knife, and in 1987 he was cleared of a rape charge. In 1991 he unsuccessfully defended himself against two charges of actual bodily harm on women.

Judge Goddard, who remanded Edwards in custody for four weeks for psychiatric reports, said that she regarded him as a dangerous man and told him that he faced either life imprisonment or a substantial period of time in jail.

While trying the case, Judge Goddard was faced with balancing her duty to see that Edwards had a fair trial with the need to keep his cross-examination strictly to what was relevant. "The defendant is representing himself, he has a right to do so. No one expects him to be a lawyer or to know all the rules or ask the right questions in the right order," she told the jury. However, she warned Edwards not to question his victim again and again about the same incident. It was only after being found guilty and warned that he faced life imprisonment that Edwards requested legal assistance.

After the trial Detective Sergeant Milne Davidson, who was in charge of the inquiry, said: "There is no doubt he was getting a thrill out of questioning the victim. He was trying to blacken her character and harass her."

"She admitted to me she was terrified, but he did not intimidate her. It is only through her integrity and determination that he has been convicted."

The prosecuting barrister in yesterday's case, Stephen Holt, said: "I am sure that the Criminal Bar Association will be reviewing this case. The situation in which a rape victim is cross-examined by the accused should not be allowed to arise. The problem is that if we deny people the right to defend themselves, we will fall foul of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg."

Court ordeal, page 3
Jeffrey Gordon, page 20
Leading article, page 21



Gillie Hamshire, one of more than 500,000 pupils who received their GCSE results yesterday, is hugged by her mother Bryoni at St Paul's Girls School, West London

State schools make mark

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

LEADING state schools step up their challenge to independent education today in the fifth annual Times A-level league table detailing this summer's results from more than 720 schools.

The independent St Paul's School in West London heads the table but for the first time a state school has broken into the top 20 and two appear in

the top 40. King Edward VI Grammar School in Chelmsford, Essex, finishes ahead of such luminaries of independent education as Manchester Grammar School, Harrow and Rugby, which regularly appear in the upper reaches of independent education tables. Its A-level grades are the best for any state school since the table was first published.

Ermysted's Grammar School, in Skipton, North Yorkshire, is the only other state school in the top 50. Hills Road College, in Cambridge, where 575 students took A levels, is the first sixth-form college to appear in the top 100.

League table, page 6
GCSE star, page 7
Education, page 36

Children will have ID cards

Children as well as adults will carry identity cards, Michael Howard said in a move seen as an attempt to defuse Tory anger over the scheme being voluntary. Page 2

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English education for young Yeltsin

By DAVID CHARTER
AND RICHARD BEESTON

BORIS YELTSIN'S favourite grandson is being sent next month to study at one of England's most expensive independent schools.

The 15-year-old, also called Boris, is regarded by his doing grandfather as a chip off the old block. He will board at Millfield School in Somerset, where fees are £15,000 a year. There, he may meet the 12-year-old adopted grandson of another of the world's most powerful leaders, Deng Xiaoping of China.

Boris Okulov, son of Yeltsin's eldest daughter Yelena, is said by the Russian President to enjoy playing truant and fighting.

Millfield has a reputation for sporting excellence and a long rollcall of children of the rich and powerful have been entrusted to its care. Several sons of King Fahd of Saudi



Boris the younger: chip
off the presidential block

Arabia and a daughter of King Hussein of Jordan have been educated at the school.

Christopher Martin, its headmaster, said that nearly one in five Millfield pupils came from overseas, continuing the tradition of its founder, R.J.O. Meyer, who started the school in 1935 with seven children from India.

including two princes. Mr Martin said: "There have always been people from all sorts of extraordinary backgrounds in the school." He added: "We have got people from 54 countries and we have an international association established in some 20 of those countries." He said he had no idea how young Boris's parents came to know about Millfield.

Mr Yeltsin nicknamed his favourite grandson Borka and talked fondly of him in his book, *The View From the Kremlin*, published in 1994, where he confessed: "I had waited for a boy for such a long time."

Mr Yeltsin added: "He gets into the usual scrapes: a fight, a C in school, playing hockey, rudeness to his grandmother and arguments with his sisters... I think he is like his grandfather in some ways. By nature he is a go-getter. He loves to be a leader among his

classmates. He is a real scrapper and, boy, can he fight."

The Russian President's own schooldays in the Sverdlovsk region could hardly have been more different from the surroundings his grandson will find in England.

Millfield has its own Olympic-size indoor swimming pool, a theatre, golf course, indoor tennis courts and a cross-country riding course with stabling for 47 horses in grounds of more than 100 acres. Boris Yeltsin, the son of peasants, attended a village school, although he did well enough there to gain a place at the Urals Polytechnic Institute to study civil engineering.

It has recently become fashionable among Russia's elite, including politicians, businessmen and gangsters, to send their children to Switzerland or Britain to finish their education.

Photograph, page 16

Rivals free to make a mint

The makers of Polo mints failed to protect their £41 million market after trying to a stop a rival from using a similar advertising slogan. Nestlé UK, makers of Polo, "the Mint with a Hole", wanted a legal ruling that the British launch of an American version could not use the words "the Original Mint with the Hole". Page 5

Crawley shines

John Crawley, the Lancashire batsman, was within six runs of his maiden Test century as England ended the first day of the Oval Test against Pakistan at 278 for six. Page 48

Road rage

Martin Stenning, the photographer banned from going within 300 metres of the Princess of Wales, was jailed for 12 weeks for throwing a brick through a car window. Page 4

Thousands in jail to be freed after legal bungle

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

FIVE HUNDRED prisoners are facing imminent release from jail because of a legal blunder over the way in which the prison service has been calculating sentences for almost 30 years.

Up to 5,000 prisoners in the 138 jails in England and Wales are also likely to have their release dates brought forward following an urgent review by prison governors of sentence lengths.

The mistake affects prisoners given consecutive sentences — they should have had the time spent on remand taken into account for each crime rather than just one. For example, a man given three consecutive sentences on the same day, who had spent 20 days on remand, should be allowed 60 days off his sentence rather than just 20 days.

Consecutive sentences are usually handed out to hardened criminals with long, often serious, criminal records. Now, all those falsely imprisoned during the last six years are entitled to sue for compensation.

The prison service is braced for a flood of compensation claims — at a rate of £95 a day.

The disclosure is a further damaging blow to the prison service where morale has been low following the break-out from Parkhurst and White-moor top security jails and strong criticisms in official inquiries into both incidents.

It is also a serious embarrassment to Michael Howard during his summer offensive aimed at highlighting the Government's record on law and order and its efforts to curb crime.

The speed with which the prison service has acted has alarmed the probation service

who warned last night that inmates were being released without proper preparation, accommodation or their licence conditions being properly organised.

The seriousness of the blunder is highlighted by an instruction sent to prison governors last week detailing the way sentences must be calculated: "The aim is to eliminate variations in practice which may cost the Prison Service large sums of money."

Continued on page 2



"Administration bungle — get out of jail free"

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'Surely you can appreciate the terror you put me through? My head was in turmoil'

Victim begged rapist for compassion in court

BY JOANNA BALI

RALSTON EDWARDS arrived at the Old Bailey each day wearing the same faded jumper and jeans that he wore when he raped his victim, and carrying a plastic bag and a pile of papers.

The 42-year-old questioned his victim in a low, flat voice devoid of emotion. She fled from the courtroom at one stage, complaining that she felt physically sick, after being asked to give a precise account of the sexual humiliation she had endured. She was sent home by the matron who is always on call at the court.

Edwards asked about minute details, picking over every aspect of his victim's private life. His questions included: "What flavour milkshake did you drink in my home?"

During her cross-examination, the woman looked across the court at Edwards and said:

THE EVIDENCE

"Surely you can appreciate the terror you put me through? You are human, after all. Surely you can imagine what it was like for me? My whole head was in turmoil after that. Throughout my ordeal I was trying to stay calm and not rile you. I wanted to get away, but you raped and sodomised me."

Edwards, the son of a Jamaican father and white mother, had one previous conviction for rape and was acquitted on another rape charge. He has numerous other convictions, including for violence against women, and conducted his own defence unsuccessfully four years ago on two assault charges.

The task facing Judge Goddard, QC, was not an easy one. She had to ensure that the witness was not subjected to hostile questions, but also had to be flexible in her attitude to an accused man who had legitimately adopted his right to defend himself without advice from lawyers.

As Edwards summed up his case, he frequently referred to courtroom exchanges that had not been heard by the jury. One legal expert said: "No barrister would ever be allowed to get away with this."



The rape victim broke down several times during cross-examination by Ralston Edwards at the Old Bailey. Judge Goddard, QC, frequently interrupted his questions

but the judge knows that if she tries to gag Edwards, he may get off on appeal.

The judge interrupted the exchanges between defendant and victim many times to point out proper court procedure. Sometimes she would say: "I think Mr Edwards is asking you..."

At other times she would stop Edwards from going over the same ground. Stephen Holt, for the prosecution, told the court that the

victim has two children aged 16 and 18. The youngest has just done well in his GCSEs and the other had passed his A-levels and accepted a place to study science at university. The boys had supported their mother by accompanying her to criminal hearings.

The jury of seven men and five women were told how she was approached by Edwards outside Lewisham railway station late one evening last

December after travelling to southeast London from her home in Margate, Kent. She is in the process of divorcing her third husband, and had come to London to move in with her boyfriend. They have since set up home outside London, with her sons because she is too traumatised to live in the area.

Edwards, whose occupation was selling condoms to prostitutes, began speaking to her at a bus stop after noticing that she was wearing an Aids awareness ribbon, which he also wore. Mr Holt said that she did everything she could to get rid of him, but he followed her onto a bus. When she got off, he came after her, grabbed her and began kissing and fondling her in a deserted alleyway.

Mr Holt said: "She was petrified, but she thought it best to co-operate and asked if there was somewhere else they could go." She hoped that this would stop him molesting her and that they would go somewhere where there were people she could ask for help.

Edwards was carrying a black bag and she feared he had a gun in it, she told the jury. She explained that she hoped to attract someone's attention on the walk to Edwards's flat, but realised that the streets were deserted.

mattress on the floor had no bedding or pillows on it. He pushed me down on to the bed. I was pleading with him, but he didn't seem to care. It was as if I was his property."

During cross-examination she told Edwards: "I tried to appeal to your better nature. I was pleading with you not to go on. But you took no notice."

She said that she was in the flat for 16 hours. During that time, she alleged, she was raped four times. When Edwards finally fell asleep, the woman ran weeping to a nearby garage and a couple took her to a police station. When arrested Edwards said that the woman had consented to sex. He pleaded not guilty to four charges of rape and was cleared on two.

Edwards had been involved in crime since his teenage years, but police admitted that they knew little about him. One officer said that Edwards had picked on vulnerable social outcasts because he believed that they would not report him. One detective said: "I believe he picked this woman because she was carrying so much luggage that he thought she was a lady who would not go to the police."

His victim said that since the attack she has been under constant psychiatric care and had moved to a secret address. She said in court that some time ago she had broken a bone in her back and had taken so many painkillers that she had become addicted to them. She gave them up, but after the attack began to take methadone, which she is still prescribed.

Detective Sergeant Milne Davidson, who was in charge of the inquiry, said yesterday: "This is the first time I have seen a defendant conducting his own defence in such a serious case in my 31 years as a policeman. The difficulty is that it is a person's right to defend himself, but you have got to look at it from the point of view of the victim."

"She has been very upset, but also very strong. Her reaction after the cross-examination was relief that it was finished, but also that it shouldn't happen to any other rape victim."

Jeffrey Gordon, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Record of violence began in youth

RALSTON EDWARDS has a violent criminal past, with a record of attacks on women. It took Detective Sergeant Milne Davidson more than five minutes to read out his previous convictions after the jury delivered its verdict.

Edwards, 42, who told the jury that he had not worked for five years, began committing crimes as a youth. In 1971 he was convicted of his first violent offence and sent to a detention centre by Greenwich magistrates for three months for two assaults on police. Driving offences, burglary, theft and assaults followed throughout the 1970s and end-

THE OFFENDER

ed in his first spell in prison in 1981 when he was sentenced to four months for assault with intent to rob.

In May 1984 he was jailed for three years at the Old Bailey for raping a neighbour in Peckham, southeast London. He entered her flat through the balcony window, and forced her to have sex with him by threatening her baby with a knife. He was found guilty of causing actual bodily harm to another woman on the same day and jailed for 18 months for that offence.

In December 1987 he was cleared of another charge of rape. Sergeant Davidson told the court: "Mr Edwards went home to his common-law wife and began drinking. The next day he beat her using a broom handle, wire coat-hanger, a wooden coat-hanger and a flex."

Five months later he was jailed for three years by Inner London Crown Court for grievous bodily harm in connection with this attack. In November 1991 Edwards unsuccessfully defended himself against two charges of

actual bodily harm on women. He held one woman down, on the floor, put her head in a neck lock and punched her repeatedly to the neck and body.

In the second attack he put both his arms round the victim's neck, inflicting bruising, then put his hands across her mouth and injured her left arm and forearm. "Certainly the officers' opinion was that these matters were sexual," Sergeant Davidson said.

Edwards's sentence of two years on each charge, to run consecutively, was reduced to 15 months on each count on appeal.

Child sex cases are only exception to Englishman's right of self-defence

BY ALAN HAMILTON

ALTHOUGH some European legal systems insist that a defendant in court must be represented by a professional lawyer, it has always been an Englishman's inalienable right to be allowed to defend himself.

There is one exception to the rule, introduced in the 1991 Criminal Justice Act. Defendants in certain child sex cases can no longer cross-examine their alleged victims or any other witnesses, on the grounds that it could cause further unnecessary suffering to those who claim they have already been abused.

Jennifer Tennin, Professor of Law at Sussex University, was a member of the legal committee that recommended the ban in 1989. She said yesterday: "We proposed that the ban be extended to adult sex crime cases, on the basis that a rape victim should not have to confront her attacker in court and be questioned by him. Adult witnesses can be just as vulnerable as children, and the ordeal can be quite awful for them. But the proposal was rejected."

Conducting one's own defence was largely wiped out by the introduction of the legal aid system, which originated in 1948 and was refined into its present form in the 1960s. Now an estimated 98 per cent of defendants in Crown Courts are on legal aid, on the basis that the

THE LAW



The two sides make their own cases to the court in a depiction of a hearing in the early 17th century

majority of criminals are unemployed.

Dispensing with hugely expensive barristers is more common in civil cases, especially those of libel, if only because legal aid is not available in cases of defamation. In the recent celebrated libel case, Ian Botham and Allan Lamb found themselves having to pay an estimated £500,000 in fees for the silver-tongued and gold-plated advocacy of Charles Gray, QC, and George Carman, QC.

Those who choose to conduct their own defence are entitled to assistance, usually unpaid, in the form of what is called a "Mackenzie Friend" — not necessarily a qualified lawyer — who can help them

to present their case and steer them round the deeper pitfalls of cross-examination.

Ole Hansen, a London law lecturer and expert on the legal aid system, said yesterday: "Judges do not like people conducting their own defence. It slows up the whole system and often tries the patience of a judge who is used to the smooth running of the normal adversarial system. But they are obliged to put up with it if that is what the defendant chooses."

Conducting one's own defence is as much a lottery as hiring expensive counsel. Randall and Pottle, charged with springing the convicted spy George Blake from Wormwood Scrubs, conduct-

ed their own defence and won their case. Roger Seelig, a defendant in the Guinness trial, also acted as counsel for himself and suffered a heart attack. The defendants in the McDonald's libel trial are acting on their own behalf but, as it has already become the longest case of its kind in British legal history, with no outcome yet in sight, the jury is still out on the wisdom of their amateur advocacy.

In the English courts, the notion of having legal representatives to argue a case has its origins in the 14th century, and even in that distant time the division between barristers and solicitors was drawn: barristers and serjeants had the right of audience in the common-law courts while solicitors, then known as attorneys, were restricted to the preparatory stages of a case.

The long-standing tradition of dock brief, although not used nowadays, still exists in theory, according to legal experts. Any accused could demand the services of any barrister who happened to be present in the court, provided he was robed, on payment of a fee of half a crown. It was poor reward for the legal profession.

One ancient custom that springs from those distant days might be reason enough on its own for you to conduct your own defence. You could never, and still cannot, sue a barrister for negligence or misconduct.

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Commission gives warning to ITN to be impartial in run-up to the general election

News at Ten interview with Major 'too friendly'

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

THE Independent Television Commission has criticised ITN chiefs over an interview with John Major conducted by Trevor McDonald and broadcast on *News at Ten* last month.

The commission concluded that the interview, described as "fawning" by Labour, did not breach the clauses on impartiality in its programme code. But a letter from Sir George Russell, the commission chairman, in reply to a complaint by David Hill, Labour's chief media spokesman, suggested that the interview was "too friendly" and that some of the questioning was "inappropriate".

The commission also warned ITN that its impartiality would be monitored in the run-up to the general election, and it advised producers to ensure that the "right tone" was adopted in future.

Labour complained about



Sir George said ITN did not breach code

the decision to lead *News at Ten* with the interview on July 18, rather than with a report about the TWA air crash in which 230 people died. John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said the interview was a disgrace, complaining that it was a party political broadcast. "We shall be seeking to know when Tony Blair can

expect such fawning treatment," Mr Prescott said in a letter to ITN at the time.

At one point during the interview, which was conducted in the garden of 10 Downing Street, McDonald said: "I have been reading some of the interviews you have been giving to newspapers and what comes over is the extraordinary dedication you have for this job." He also praised Mr Major's achievements in Northern Ireland, saying he "had a great deal of courage".

Sir George's letter pointed out that McDonald was known for his courteous style of questioning. "However, it may have seemed to some viewers that the overall approach was a little too friendly and relaxed for a major setpiece interview with a party leader, and that value judgments within the questions, such as the reference to Mr Major's extraordinary dedication, were inappropriate."

"The ITC does not wish to discourage courtesy, and we do not conclude that the

approach to this interview was such as to have placed it in breach of due impartiality requirements. Nevertheless, we believe that setting exactly the right tone in such situations is something ITN may wish to consider further for the future."

Labour welcomed the commission's response, saying it was delighted that it had agreed that the tone of the interview had been inappropriate. A spokesman added: "We are also pleased that the ITC has given a commitment to monitor carefully the impartiality of broadcasters in the run-up to the election."

ITN said it was extremely pleased the commission had confirmed that the interview did not breach guidelines on impartiality. "ITN welcomes Sir George Russell's comments that testing questions were asked, that the ITC does not wish to discourage courtesy in interviewing, and that Trevor's courteous style of interviewing did not breach due impartiality require-

ments," a spokeswoman said. "ITN will continue to remain challenging and impartial in its political coverage and to stand firm against undue pressure from all political parties."

Labour's complaint claimed that the interview was not



Labour described Trevor McDonald's interview with Mr Major as "fawning"

balanced in relation to the programme and did not fit in with any planned series with other party leaders. Mr Hill also protested that "the reporting was not dispassionate or even-handed".

In his reply, Sir George concluded that the code was

not breached and that therefore the commission would not be intervening formally. A spokesman for the commission said that Labour's complaint had not gone before the full board because staff had found there was no breach of the programme code.

In his reply, Sir George concluded that the code was

Princess pursuer jailed for car attack

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT
AND EMMA WILKINS

MARTIN STENNING, the photographer who has been banned from going within 300 metres of the Princess of Wales, was jailed for 12 weeks yesterday for throwing a brick through the window of a car. His latest conviction emerged as he prepared to contest a High Court injunction preventing him from communicating with or harassing the Princess.

Stenning was sentenced at Clerkenwell Magistrates' Court for a criminal damage offence which took place when he was working as a dispatch rider in February. He had pleaded guilty four weeks ago, but Benedict Birnberg, the solicitor acting for him in relation to the Princess's injunction, was unaware of the case until Stenning telephoned him from court to tell him he was going to Brixton prison.

Mr Birnberg, who is compiling an affidavit detailing Mr Stenning's defence against the Princess's claims of harassment, said: "It is the fourth of a series of road rage convictions that he has now acquired. I am devastated because it obviously has an effect on our case and it makes my job more difficult." He expects to deliver the affidavit to the Princess's solicitors, Mishcon de Reya, next week.

David Jones, who acted for Stenning yesterday, said later that his client became involved in an argument with the driver of a Land Rover as he delivered a parcel in Highgate, north London. He brandished a brick and threw it through the window of a Volkswagen parked nearby, causing £182 damage. Mr Jones said Stenning had already lodged an appeal against the jail sentence.

Stenning has a number of other convictions. In 1992 he was convicted of assault after kicking the car door of a driver when she turned out of a side road and caused him to swerve. He has also admitted burglary, theft and other offences.



Stenning: hurled brick through car window

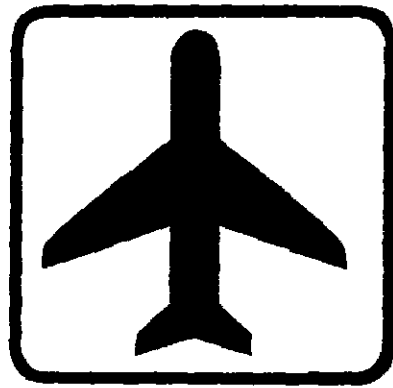
Hendrix sale nets girlfriend £36,000

A SHEET of Jimi Hendrix lyrics sold for £10,925 at auction in London yesterday. The early draft of *Ain't No Telling*, dating from 1966, was one of the few lyrics that he did not lose or throw away. It was bought by the Hard Rock Café in Orlando, Florida.

In the same sale, in Chelsea, the "dope-box" in which the rock guitarist stashed away some of his favourite "song-inducing substances" fetched £5,060, bought by an Australian private collector. The black lacquer box with inlaid mother-of-pearl was sold by Kathy Etchingham, Hendrix's girlfriend, from 1966 to 1969. In 1970, not long after their relationship broke up and when he was at the peak of his success, he died after swallowing a fatal dose of barbiturates.

Yesterday she sold 24 pieces, which she described as some of his favourite possessions, for £36,512. An Iron Cross from the First World War, which he used to wear, sold for £4,600, also to the Hard Rock Café. Bonhams said: "If it was just an Iron Cross, it would have been valued at £15 to £20. This shows the power of pop stars."

Which rewards programme is the best?



Perhaps you need some more facts:

Inside Flyer magazine named Membership Rewards the Best Affinity Credit Card programme of 1996. "By a staggering majority, American Express comes first, wiping out all rivals..." "Once enrolled you can enjoy a great range of rewards including complimentary flights through a choice of eight frequent flyer programmes. You gain points with virtually every purchase you make on the Charge, Credit or Corporate Card. These points don't expire as long as you're a Cardmember. Plus if you use the Card to book with our partners, you gain their programme points as well as valuable Membership Rewards Points. Any more questions?

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SHOWROOMS OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK - CALLERS WELCOME

Woodstock Make Hardwood Floors Affordable

Rival mint digs

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE makers of the Mint chocolate failed to protect their lion market yesterday morning to a sign of using a similar slogan.

Nestlé UK, makers of the Mint with a Hint British launch, American version, savers, could not words "the Original of the Hole". However, of Appeal, royal mints had no money. Henry Mark confectionery.

Nestlé argued that the description chosen by the British would mislead the thinking of consumers or made by Nestlé.

The argument was very close to the very heart of the case. The British found that there was in the evidence to the

Secretary she was as coffee

BY AN

THE chief executive of publishing house in the personal assistant of the and drew up a new female staff in the supplied with coffee. worked, an industrial was told yesterday.

See Sum Hooi chief executive of Marshall's, who bullied Joan Parker, a secretary, for two years because she failed to make him coffee. It was claimed that he blocked any chance of promotion and treated her as a fashion, the tribunal said.

Mrs Parker, 38, said employer nursed a grudge about an occasion when she was busy and another member of staff made coffee. She claimed that after the incident, Mr Hooi, 53, "niggled and gossiped" time she made a drink.

"Mr Hooi was not happy with my tea or coffee and barked nastily at me every time, pointing out what was wrong with each drink," said. "He seemed to be breaking me and then nothing I could do."

The hearing was also told how the executive treated another secretary as "more than a tea-lady and cleaner". It was claimed that he used tissues in the



See Sum Hooi is accused of bullying Joan Parker and of treating her

Yacht boy as father

BY RICHARD

A TERRIFIED boy was stranded alone on board a yacht in heavy seas off the Cornish coast yesterday after his father was washed overboard. The 13-year-old was rescued by helicopter after calling for help on the radio.

Crossguards who answered the mayday call from the boat for half an hour in established the vessel's position. His father's body was later recovered from the water.

Ferry Wood, of Falmouth, said he believed the boy was an Israeli named M. whose father was a British citizen. Mr Wood said: "We were talking on and off for about 30 minutes. It was a broken conversation. My

down and talk him through so I could get vital information. He said they had set off from Falmouth and were heading for Plymouth when his father changed his mind

Medical charity to be questioned on finances

BY LIN JENKINS

A CHARITY for sick babies that employs Prince Edward's girlfriend as a consultant has been called upon to explain why only 16 per cent of money raised has gone to hospitals. Charity commissioners asked yesterday to meet trustees of Baby Lifeline after it was disclosed that only £105,085 out of £634,275 raised in three years had been spent on lifesaving equipment.

Sophie Rhys Jones started working for the charity in 1995 when employed by the public relations agency MCM, and began independent consultancy work for it this year when she left the agency. She and Prince Edward attended a fundraising ball.

In 1992 just £8,375 of an income of £82,680 went on equipment donations and in 1994 the figure was £39,024 out of £241,864, of which £180,034 was spent on events and £66,841 on overheads.

Charities Aid Foundation, which collates statistics from the 180,000 registered charities, which are thought to have a combined income between £10 billion and £16 billion a year, said the 500 charities with the highest incomes spent

Polo: too famous for confusion, judge says

Lifesavers, he said, were similar to Polos and sold in similar sized tubes, and had been marketed in the US since 1912. "The design was based on a miniature lifebelt, hence the name Lifesavers," he noted with legalistic caution.

"I don't believe on the evidence that there is a serious issue to be tried," he concluded, which left a hole of such alarming proportions in the proceedings that they were promptly discontinued.



BY A STAFF REPORTER

Bourne's out-tray, expecting her to dispose of them. On another occasion, when Mr Hooi's personal assistant was absent, he arranged for a rota of seven women to take over coffee-making duties, the tribunal heard.

Mrs Bourne told the hearing: "Mr Hool's main priority was for me to serve tea or coffee during the day. He told me on more than one occasion to make the drinks again if he did not like the colour or if it was too strong or too weak."

Surrey is claiming sex discrimination and unfair dismissal at the tribunal in Woburn Place, central London. "Mr Hooi blocked my progress within the company, humiliated me and made my situation intolerable because he was not satisfied

that I gave him a degree of feminine servility he demanded," she said. "I am absolutely certain that he did not expect this sort of servility from male employees."

Marshall Cavendish claims that Mrs Parker was not

entitled to automatic promotion and accused her of adopting an unsatisfactory work-to-rule policy after failing to achieve promotion three times. The hearing continues.



Kee Sum Hooi is accused of humiliating Joan Parker and of treating her in a sexist fashion

By RICHARD DUCE

halfway. He said he had been asleep on the yacht. They were around half a mile from Looe island and the weather was particularly rough. There were force six winds."

The coastguards used radio location equipment as the boy

helped to plot the yacht's position off Looe, south Cornwall. Mr Wood said: "Initially the boy said his father was wearing a life jacket, but a Fowey lifeboat crewman chatted to the boy when he got out and he said he found out

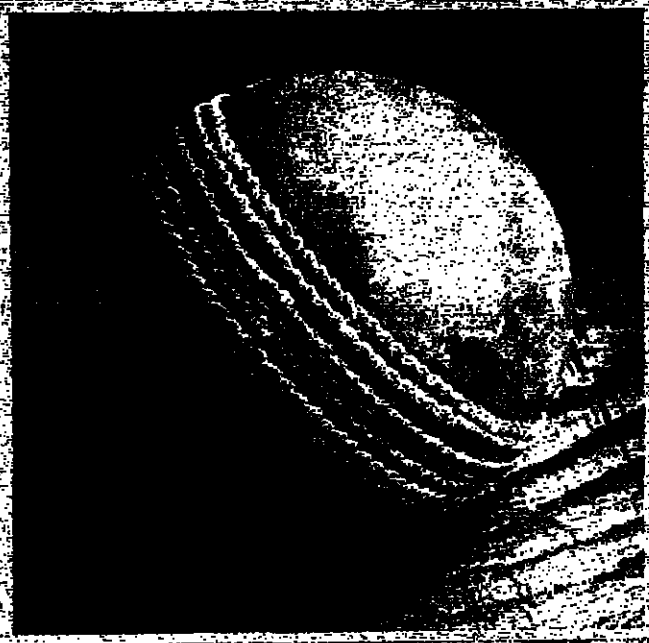
"He was quite calm by the end. I kept telling him people were coming and he knew I was telling the truth when he saw the helicopter arrive."

The dead man, believed to be in his forties, is thought to have fallen overboard about 1pm yesterday and was recovered floating face down in the water three hours later, about a mile and a half from the yacht.

EXCUSE me.

This **SIMPLY** isn't

cricket.




We admit it. We can't resist beer. You have to love it too. And why you British would not, we don't know. But we'll leave your silly mid on that. It's your move.

As any beer-loving Englishman will tell you, the rules for playing cricket were codified in 1775, the rules for brewing Beck's in 1874. It's a constant regard for tradition, length, regulations of their passion have found their way into that bastion of tradition, the MCC rule book. It now confusingly gives both metric and imperial measurements for ball, bat and wicket, leaving the groundsmen of Britain in a quandary. Should they metricate and extend their cricket pitches by a crucial 3.2mm or not?

But rest assured, at Beck & Co there's no confusion. If anyone ever tried to mess around with our beer, we wouldn't move a millimetre. We say that it is essential that our water comes from the same glacial, underground spring we have always used. We insist the hops are from the Hallertau and Tettnang regions, selected for exact bitterness and aroma content. We demand our barley be approved in the field itself by the master brewer. We categorically state that the yeast must be Beck's own pure, cultivated strain. Only then may brewing commence.

So, friends of Beck's, rest assured we will not allow anyone to compromise the uniqueness of our beer. With your support, your sense of fair play, your deep, exemplary conduct and your bloody-mindedness, we will keep our award up



BREWED IN BREMEN, GERMANY SINCE 1874

ADRIAN SHERMAN

A black and white photograph showing two young men, pupils at St Paul's in west London, looking down at papers they are holding. The pupil on the left is wearing glasses and a light-colored shirt. The pupil on the right is wearing a dark shirt. They are standing in front of a dark, textured background.

Pupils at St Paul's in west London, which has produced consistently good A-level results

State Schools in hold type	No of pupils	Score	State Schools in hold type	No of pupils	Score	State Schools in hold type	No of pupils	Score	State Schools in hold type	No of pupils	Score
1 St Paul's Sch., London (Boys)	160	31.4	Coleraine High Sch., Londonderry (LEA/Sel/Girls)	85	22.0	Landale High School, Powys (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	20	19.4	Wirral Grammar Sch., Wirral (GM/Sel/Boys)	90	17.2
2 Westminster Sch., London (Mixed)	146	31.4	Durham High Sch. for Girls, Durham, Durham (Girls)	34	22.0	Malpas Erleigh School, Berks (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	123	19.4	553 Cullford Sch., Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (GM/Sel/Boys)	66	17.2
3 Eton Coll., Windsor, Berks (Boys)	244	29.6	Reigate Grammar Sch., Reigate, Surrey (GM/Sel/Boys)	108	22.0	Newcastle Sch., London (Boys)	117	19.4	Erasmus Sch., London (Boys)	90	17.2
4 Windward Hill Sch., Weymouth, Dorset (Boys)	67	29.6	Royal Coll. Windsor, Windsor, Berks (Mixed)	25	22.0	Rougemont Sch., Newport, S. Wales (Mixed)	21	19.4	John Paul School, Derby (GM/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
5 Sevenoaks Sch. (H), Sevenoaks, Kent (Mixed)	67	29.6	St Mary's & St Anne, N. Rugeley, Staffs (Girls)	25	22.0	373 Abbey Grammar School, Newry (LEA, Comp, Mixed)	119	19.4	Knaresborough High School, Cheshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	92	17.2
6 The North London Collegiate Sch., Edgware, (Girls)	52	29.6	St Mary's High Sch., London (Boys)	103	21.9	374 St Mary's High School, Newry (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	119	19.4	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
7 The Perse Sch., Cambridge, Cambs (Boys)	52	29.6	192 Arnold Sch., Blackpool, Lancs (Mixed)	103	21.9	Chew Valley School, Bath (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	48	19.3	Queen Elizabeth's Grammar, Ashby (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
8 King's Coll. Sch., London (Boys)	136	28.9	Barnard Castle Sch., Barnard Castle, Durham (Mixed)	68	21.9	King's Sch., Burton, Somerset (Mixed)	74	19.3	Thorpe Wicrama Sch. for Boys, Kent (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
9 Radcliffe Coll., Abingdon, Oxon (Boys)	138	28.9	101 Holme Sch., Clevedon, Cheshire (Mixed)	138	21.9	Truro Sch., Truro, Cornwall (Mixed)	84	19.3	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
10 Tonbridge Sch., Tonbridge, Kent (Boys)	138	28.9	196 Cranbrook School, Kent (GM/Sel/Mixed)	134	21.9	Truro Sch., Truro, Cornwall (Mixed)	84	19.3	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
11 Badminton Sch., Bristol, Avon (Girls)	44	28.3	197 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.9	Worthing Sch., Worthing, Sussex (Mixed)	50	19.3	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
12 The Harbordale Sch., Ash, Hants (Boys)	55	28.3	198 County High School, Essex (LEA/Sel/Boys)	90	21.8	382 Blandford School, Dorset (LEA/Sel/Boys)	142	19.2	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
14 Wycombe Abbey Sch., High Wycombe, Bucks (Girls)	85	28.3	Shorborne Sch., Sherborne, Dorset (Boys)	143	21.8	Dartford Grammar School, Kent (GM/Sel/Boys)	142	19.2	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
15 The Priory Sch., Esher, Surrey (Girls)	113	27.6	Uppingham Sch., Uppingham, Leics (Mixed)	143	21.8	Queen Elizabeth's Sch., York, N. Yorks (Girls)	16	19.2	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
16 Royal Grammar Sch., Guildford, Surrey (Boys)	115	27.6	Woodford County High School, Essex (LEA/Sel/Girls)	90	21.8	Shebbear Coll., Bexley, Devon (Mixed)	30	19.2	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
17 Abingdon Sch., Abingdon, Oxon (Boys)	84	27.6	202 Austin Friars Sch., Carlisle, Cumbria (Mixed)	29	21.7	St William's Grammar Sch., Bucks (LEA/Sel/Mixed)	127	19.2	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
18 St Edmund's Sch., Salisbury, Wilt (Boys)	111	27.6	Barnham Grammar Sch., Bucks (LEA/Sel/Mixed)	29	21.7	Stow Sch., Buckingham, Bucks (Mixed)	127	19.2	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
19 King Edward VI Sch., Chesham, Bucks (GM/Sel/Boys)	111	27.6	Halebury, Hertford, Herts (Mixed)	113	21.7	389 Bury Grammar Sch., Bury, Lancs (Boys)	89	19.2	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
20 Leam Grammar Sch., Leamington, Hants (Boys)	111	27.6	Merchant Taylors' Sch. for Girls, Liverpool (Boys)	71	21.7	Douai Sch., Reading, Berks (Mixed)	89	19.2	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
21 St Mary's Sch., South Ayr, Ayr (Boys)	111	27.6	St Margaret's Sch. for Girls, Exeter, Devon (Girls)	37	21.7	St Edward's Sch., Chesham, Bucks (Mixed)	49	19.2	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
22 The Cheltenham Ladies' Coll., Cheltenham, Glos (Girls)	134	27.6	196 Cranbrook School, Kent (GM/Sel/Mixed)	134	21.7	Oakwood Park Grammar School, Kent (GM/Sel/Mixed)	51	19.2	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
23 Wyke Academy, Leeds, W. Yorks (Boys)	134	27.6	200 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	Queen's Coll. London, London (Girls)	343	19.1	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
24 King Edward's Sch., Birmingham, W. Mids (Boys)	134	27.6	201 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
25 The Godolphin & Laymer Sch., London, (Girls)	102	26.7	202 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
26 St Edward VI High Sch., Birmingham (Girls)	102	26.7	203 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
27 Kings Sch., Canterbury, Kent (Mixed)	102	26.7	204 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
28 Bolton Sch. (Boys Div), Bolton, Lancs (Boys)	115	26.7	205 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
29 The Holland Sch., London (Boys)	78	26.5	206 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
30 Magdalen Coll. Sch., Oxford, Oxon (Boys)	78	26.5	207 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
31 Durdham Sch., Peterborough, N. Hants (Mixed)	203	26.5	208 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
32 Harrogate Sch., Harrogate, W. Yorks (Boys)	125	26.5	209 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
33 Whitgift Sch., South Croydon (Boys)	126	26.1	210 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
34 Alton Sch., Alton, Hants (Boys)	126	26.1	211 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
35 Malvern Girls' Sch., Malvern, Hereford (Girls)	75	25.9	212 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
36 Rugby Sch., Rugby, W. Yorks (Mixed)	135	25.9	213 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
37 King's Sch., Canterbury, Kent (Boys)	135	25.9	214 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
38 Eynesbury Grammar School, N. Yorks (Vol. aid. Sel/Boys)	73	25.8	215 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
39 Redwood Sch., Brighton, E. Sussex (Girls)	78	25.8	216 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
40 Redwood Sch., Brighton, E. Sussex (Mixed)	78	25.8	217 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
41 Manchester Grammar Sch., Manchester (Boys)	188	25.6	218 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
42 Queen's Sch., Chester (Girls)	60	25.6	219 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
43 St Edmund's Sch., Salisbury, Wilt (Boys)	111	25.6	220 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
44 St Edmund's Sch., Salisbury, Wilt (Girls)	111	25.6	221 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
45 Watfield Girls' High Sch., Watfield, W. Yorks (Girls)	53	25.6	222 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
46 Watfield Girls' High Sch., Watfield, W. Yorks (Girls)	53	25.6	223 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
47 Watfield Girls' High Sch., Watfield, W. Yorks (Girls)	53	25.6	224 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
48 Watfield Girls' High Sch., Watfield, W. Yorks (Girls)	53	25.6	225 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
49 Watfield Girls' High Sch., Watfield, W. Yorks (Girls)	53	25.6	226 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
50 Watfield Girls' High Sch., Watfield, W. Yorks (Girls)	53	25.6	227 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
51 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	228 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
52 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	229 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
53 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	230 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
54 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	231 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
55 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	232 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
56 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	233 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
57 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	234 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
58 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	235 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
59 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	236 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
60 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	237 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
61 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	238 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
62 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	239 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
63 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	240 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
64 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	241 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
65 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	242 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
66 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	243 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
67 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	244 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
68 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	245 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
69 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	246 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
70 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	247 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
71 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	248 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
72 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	249 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
73 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	250 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
74 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	251 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
75 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	252 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
76 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	253 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
77 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	254 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
78 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	255 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
79 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	256 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
80 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	257 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
81 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	258 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
82 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	259 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
83 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	260 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
84 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	261 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire (Church/Comp/Mixed)	41	19.0	St Albans Sch., Hertfordshire (LEA/Comp/Mixed)	135	17.2
85 Harrogate Ladies' Coll., Harrogate, N. Yorks (Girls)	42	25.3	262 Cranbrook Sch., Bedford, Bedford (Girls)	134	21.7	St Nicholas RC High Sch., Cheshire					

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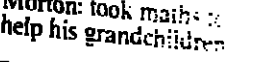
AND DAVID CHASTEN

work had attracted him. "I was quite open," says Williams, "but the stars were what I was looking for," he said. "But your mind is wrong somewhere."

His subjects were literature and mathematics and physics, chemistry, history, geography and German. He followed his brother's science subjects at a level. Camr's engineering degree at William College in October. R haven't really tried to go, but it would be to go to Cambridge.

The family's education: the deputy head of a school in Marlborough, their mother a primary teacher. Their father at Lancaster University.

Eleven-year-old Williams yesterday became the youngest awarded a national grade 10 diploma.



ME of Britain's forest
ds of prey

ing to extinction, are flourishing as they have not done more than two decades ago, according to a new report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Montagu's marsh hares, golden-crowned kinglets, blue kites and ospreys are among the birds that have increased in numbers than at any time in the 22 years since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists began collecting detailed records. The honey buzzard, a summer visitor to British Columbia, is another bird that has increased in numbers.

bered up to 25 breeding pairs in England and Scotland in 1994, compared with 11 pairs ten years earlier. There were 111 pairs of breeding red kites in Wales, up from 33 in 1984, and 28 pairs in England, and 28 pairs in Scotland. In 1989, 28 pairs were reintroduced after becoming extinct.

The 111 red kite pairs in Wales, 70 red kite pairs in England and 28 red kite pairs in Scotland, have successfully reared 90 young.

birds Panel says in its
journal *British Birds*,
panel, which includes
members of the British Trust
ornithology and the Roy-
society for the Protection



the osprey, left, and honeycreepers, right. Both species have more than two

I was quite optimistic, admits the teachers' son who achieved 11 starred-A passes

GCSE star keeps up standards in academic family

By JOHN O'LEARY
AND DAVID CHARTER

A MANCHESTER family yesterday staked its claim as the brightest in Britain when 16-year-old Ronan Astin earned 11 starred-A passes at GCSE to add to his brother Ciaran's five A grades at A level last week. His younger brother Jarlath, who topped his year at St Ambrose College, a Roman Catholic grammar school in Altrincham, will take GCSE next year.

Ronan knew he was heading for good results in some subjects because his course work had attracted top grades. "I was quite optimistic, and A stars were what I was aiming for," he said. "But in the back of your mind you always wonder if something will go wrong somewhere."

His subjects were English literature and language, mathematics, religious education, physics, chemistry, biology, history, geography, French and German. He is hoping to follow his brother and take science subjects and history at A level. Ciaran starts an engineering degree at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, in October. Ronan said: "I haven't really thought that far yet, but it would be wonderful to go to Cambridge."

The family is steeped in education: the boys' father is deputy head of a comprehensive school in Manchester and their mother a primary school teacher. Their sister Sinead is at Lancaster University.

Eleven-year-old Hafren Williams yesterday laid claim to being the youngest pupil awarded a starred-A at GCSE, the grade introduced two

years ago for exceptional performance considered a whole grade better than an A. Hafren lived in France before moving to Sheffield, where she studied alongside 16-year-olds for her French GCSE at High Storrs School.

Cheryl Berry, her head teacher, said: "We may start her off next year on A-level French and see about developing some of her other languages. It is our policy as a comprehensive to develop all the talents of individuals."

Joseph Catling, 12, also recorded a starred-A GCSE, in mathematics, at Christleton County High School in Chester. He plans to start A-level mathematics in September.

Keval Gudka brought his tally of 11 starred-A grade GCSEs to 12 by gaining ten yesterday to add to French from last summer and Gujarati the year before.

Keval, who studied at Whitgift School in Croydon, south London, said the secret lay in thorough revision. "I don't tend to draw up a plan for revision. I go to one subject and try and revise it all and if I get bored I go on to another one," he said.

Katie Mellor volunteered for an extra GCSE in religious studies which helped to boost her total to 11 starred-A grades at Redborne Upper School, a comprehensive in Amptwell, Bedfordshire. The 11 starred-A feat was repeated by Robert Harland at Tonbridge School in Kent. John Fallas at The Hulme Grammar School in Oldham, Greater Manchester, scored 11 grade As, ten of which were starred.

Helen Grote, a deaf pupil at Colchester County High, Essex, gained seven starred-As and two As, while Josie Wheeler, a blind pupil at the same school, earned seven A to C passes by dictating her answers. The 191 candidates at

the Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, recorded its highest A to C grade pass rate, averaging ten per pupil.

Northwood Computer Tutorial College, a private college in northwest London, entered 40 pupils aged 9 to 15 for GCSEs in computing. Nine-year-old Chantelle Naraine and ten-year-old Radhika Radia both got B grades and ten-year-old Samira Sahai gained a C.

Sixty-eight-year-old Alan Morton, who studied GCSE mathematics so that he could help his six grandchildren with their homework, was yesterday waiting for his result in the post. He received no help with his own homework during his year-long evening course at the Oxford College of Further Education.

Education, page 36



The A team: Ronan Astin, left, collected 11 starred-A GCSEs, while his brother Ciaran got five A-grade A levels

PC hurt as robbers open fire in street

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A POLICEMAN was wounded yesterday when a robber opened fire with a semi-automatic weapon. The uniformed officer had been on routine patrol when he saw three men running to a vehicle after holding up a security van.

As he gave chase in Clapham, southwest London, one of the men fired five shots, wounding him in the leg. The injured officer fell but managed to radio for help.

He was taken to St Thomas's Hospital, where his condition was stable last night. The bullet passed through his left calf. The officer was based at the same station as PC Patrick Dunne, who was shot dead in October 1993.

Three robbers wearing crash helmets had held up the Security Express van yesterday outside a Natwest Bank branch. They held a pistol to the head of a guard to force one of his colleagues to throw a bag of money from the van. The getaway car was found in Sutton, south London.



Morton: took maths to help his grandchildren

Birds of prey are flocking back in record numbers

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

SOME of Britain's rarest birds of prey, many once close to extinction, are flourishing as they have not done for more than two decades, according to a new report. Honey buzzards, marsh harriers, Montagu's harriers, red kites and ospreys are more numerous than at any time in the 22 years since ornithologists began collecting detailed records.

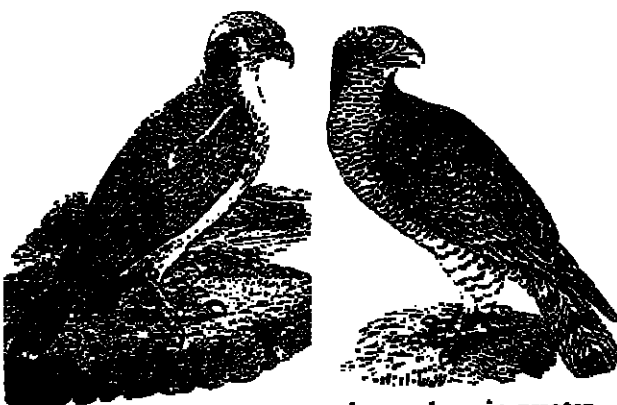
The honey buzzard, a summer visitor to Britain that feeds on bees and wasps, numbered up to 28 breeding pairs in England and Scotland in 1994, compared with two pairs ten years earlier. There were 111 pairs of breeding red kites in Wales, up from 33 in 1984, and 28 pairs in England and Scotland, where they were reintroduced in 1989 after becoming extinct.

Of the 111 red kite pairs in Wales, 70 bred successfully and reared 90 young — both record totals, the Rare Breeding Birds Panel says in its annual report published in the journal *British Birds*. The panel, which includes members of the British Trust for Ornithology and the Royal Society for the Protection

of Birds, collates and analyses data gathered from all over Britain. Marsh harriers, too, enjoyed a revival of fortunes, raising 255 young, mainly in the reed beds of East Anglia, compared with 66 in 1984. The rare Montagu's harrier bred 13 young from a record 15 sites in England. Ten years ago it was known at only two localities.

In Scotland, ospreys had a record year, 146 young being reared by 83 pairs that laid eggs. Among other birds highlighted in the report are avocets, which live in brackish coastal lagoons, and Dartford warblers, mainly found in the heath country of the New Forest, in Hampshire, and Dorset. The population of Dartford warblers was put at 1,675 pairs, the highest recorded.

Humphrey Crick, of the British Trust for Ornithology, said: "Legislation to protect birds of prey has played a big part in their recovery. But species such as the honey buzzard and the Montagu's harrier like a warm climate and may have benefited from the milder winters and hot summers of recent years."



The osprey, left, and honey buzzard are in greater numbers than two decades ago, a new report says

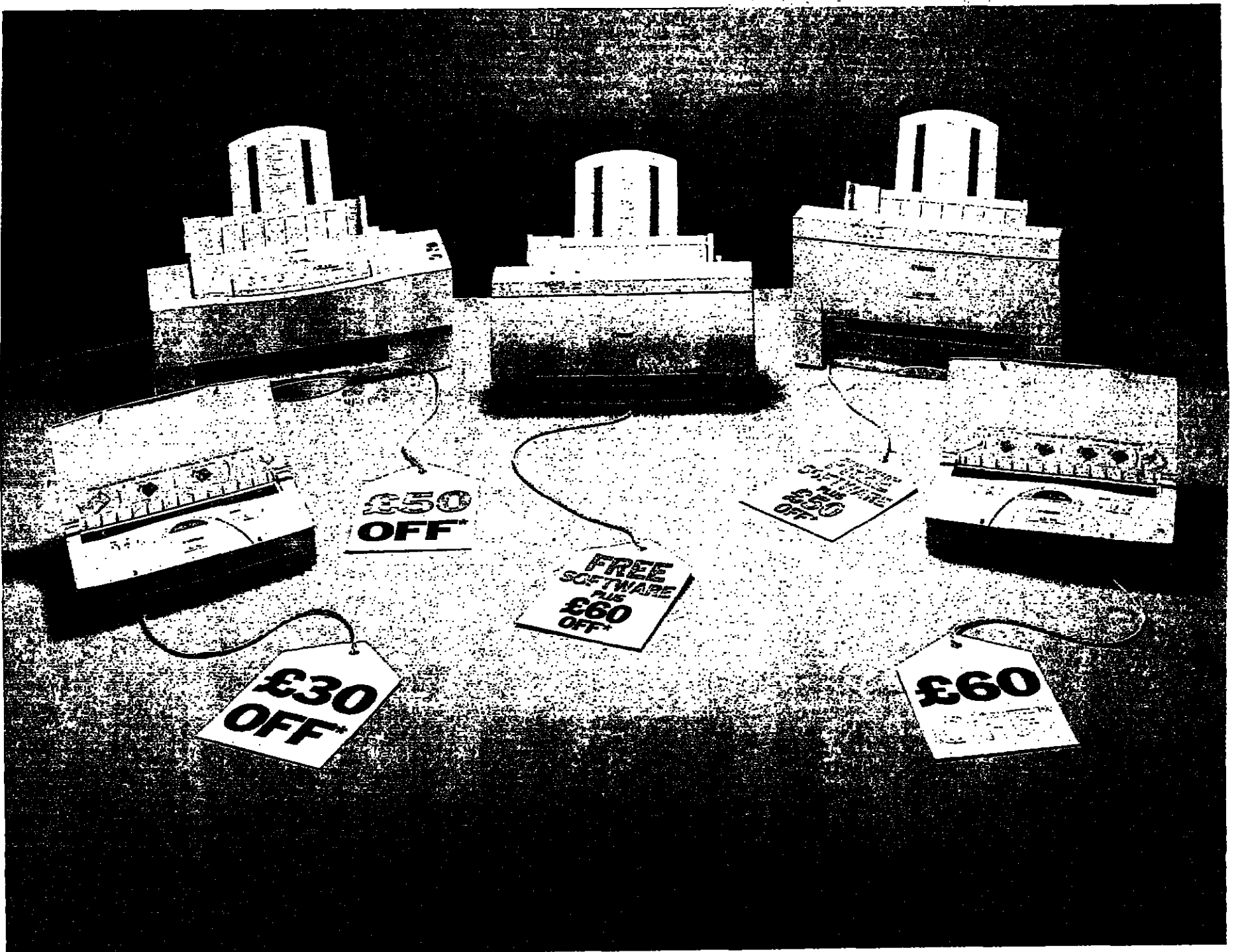
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NHS urged to lift curb on breast reduction surgery

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN seeking breast reduction surgery are having difficulty getting it on the National Health Service, in spite of the real benefits researchers say that it offers.

Cosmetic surgery is one of the few areas of healthcare being explicitly rationed, but researchers from Oxford say that breast reduction is more than an aesthetic treatment. In a study of 166 women who had the size of their breasts surgically reduced, they found that 86 per cent reported substantial improvements in physical, social and psychological wellbeing.

Many of the women suffered pain in the back, shoulder or neck and found exercise or sport uncomfortable. Some were sore from chafing skin and were embarrassed by their appearance. A number had to endure remarks and teasing. After the operation, almost nine out of ten said they

saw a great deal of change in their appearance and described the surgical result as either excellent or very good. The proportion judged at risk of depression or other mental disorder fell from 41 per cent to 11 per cent.

The research team, led by Ray Fitzpatrick of the Department of Public Health at Oxford University, said that the findings should make those health authorities who deny women the operation think again. Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, they said that aesthetic concerns mattered, but that the benefits went beyond these. "Many women report feeling embarrassed, unattractive and self-conscious owing to the inordinate size of their breasts and the unwanted attention the size attracts."

"The Government, the public and NHS managers generally consider cosmetic surgery to be non-essential or of low priority... Our results point to strong medical reasons for surgery and sig-

nificant health gains through treatment."

A survey by the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts published this year found 26 health authorities had rationed some form of treatment, including cosmetic surgery, in-vitro fertilisation and dental implants. In the Oxford region, two of the four districts excluded breast reduction as a routine treatment to save money.

Latest available figures show that 2,353 women had breast reduction operations on the NHS in 1993-94 at an estimated cost of £2.6 million. The researchers said: "Breast reduction is still available on the NHS but purchasers are asking whether this procedure and other forms of cosmetic surgery are justified in a cash-limited, state-funded medical system."

"The evidence of substantial improvements in wellbeing challenges the basis for resource allocation decisions on breast reduction surgery and, perhaps, other cosmetic surgery."



Dorrell: admitted that lists would lengthen

List of patients waiting for a year increases by 5,800

By JEREMY LAURANCE

THE number of patients waiting more than a year for admission to NHS hospitals has doubled in three months.

Figures released by the Health Department yesterday show that there were 4,574 on March 30 but 10,574 on June 30. The rise is the first evidence of the pressure on the health service, which is facing one of its highest financial years in almost a decade.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, admitted earlier in the summer that waiting lists could lengthen.

Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, made light of the rise, saying that it reflected "well-established seasonal trends". However, this year's increase of 127.1 per cent between March and June

compares with an increase last year of 3.3 per cent.

Mr Malone said that despite the rise, the June figure was 22,000 lower than a year ago — "a dramatic year-on-year improvement". With more than a million people listed for hospital treatment, fewer than one in 100 was waiting longer than a year, he said.

Those waiting more than 18 months for treatment were down to 100 from 20,000 four years ago, the minister added. "This is still 100 too many. Each of these patients is having his case looked at individually and will be offered treatment as soon as it can be arranged," Mr Malone said.

Trent region had the most patients waiting more than a year in the last quarter: 2,990.

This was up from 2,108 in the previous period.

Mr Malone said: "Waiting times have been falling year after year, providing a dramatically improved service for patients. Not only are maximum waiting times being cut, but only half of all patients need to wait at all and half of those who do wait are admitted within six weeks."

The numbers of patients waiting between 12 and 17 months for hospital admission in the eight health regions were as follows, with last quarter's figures in brackets: Northern and Yorkshire, 1,993 (1,271); Trent, 2,990 (2,108); Anglia and Oxford, 1,133 (746); North Thames, 2,164 (934); South Thames, 965 (331); South and West, 1,021 (394); West Midlands, 1,021 (394); North West, 38 (0).

Benefits of cosmetic operations can often go further than just skin deep

APPEARANCE matters to people. Those who perceive themselves as ugly and unattractive will suffer in their health, their interpersonal relationships and their job.

Agony aunts are asked about acne more often than any other subject: it can usually be adequately treated by any interested GP. However, problems referred to cosmetic plastic surgeons whether it is breasts that are too small or too large, ears which stick out, noses which are unshapely, or abdomens which hang down like an apron — need an operation.

Operations are expensive. At a time when the NHS is desperately



MEDICAL BRIEFING

short of money, and when life-saving surgery is delayed, many feel that cosmetic aesthetic surgery, however desirable, is not the best use of available funds.

There is confusion between plastic and reconstructive surgery and aesthetic plastic surgery. Plastic surgeons, whatever their particu-

lar interests, spend most of their time reconstructing faces, hands and bodies burnt in fires or mangled by accidents. Some have made a speciality of correcting congenital malformations, cleft palates, hairpins, absent ears or skulls which are misshapen. Not even the hardest, toughest

rightwing economist would suggest that these operations should not be done on the NHS.

The expertise derived from the experience in plastic and reconstructive surgery enables surgeons to become skilled cosmetic operators, whose expertise can be gainfully used to improve a person's natural appearance, or to reverse the ravages of time. Just as nobody would deny a child or a burn victim reconstructive cosmetic surgery, few would agree that people driven by a search for everlasting youth or flawless looks should have the bill met by the taxpayer.

The difficulty arises when as-

sessing an intermediate group. There are many people whose lives are adversely affected by physical characteristics which are no figment of a disordered imagination, but are all too obvious to others. These disadvantages frequently affect the physical and mental health of the patient. Breast reduction is often a good example where surgery can be safely recommended on medical grounds.

Many women develop excessively heavy breasts in puberty, although they are otherwise petite. It is not rare for each breast to weigh up to 5kg (more than 10lb). The young woman with huge

breasts, aware that many men are fascinated by them, is embarrassed by the attention they draw and feels compelled to hide them by wearing baggy sweaters and to diminish their prominence further by rounding her shoulders. Large-breasted women often complain of backache — partly a result of the weight of the breasts and partly from the bad posture — bras cut into the skin, and the size causes inflammation underneath them.

Not surprisingly, patients with big breasts are often psychologically damaged. They not only lack confidence, but sometimes the damage reaches the point where

anti-depressants are prescribed. Other women have such tiny breasts that they are frightened to strip in the school gym or bathe in public. Holidays become a nightmare. A good case can be made for treating these patients, if necessary on the NHS.

Barry Jones, honorary secretary of the British Association of Aesthetic Surgeons, in his foreword to *Safe Cosmetic Surgery*, emphasised that the need for cosmetic surgery is not restricted by social boundaries and is needed by people from every walk of society.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Japanese tuna boats arrested in Irish waters

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

TWO Japanese trawlers and their skippers were arrested by the Irish Navy yesterday on suspicion of fishing illegally for tuna inside Ireland's 200-mile limit. One of the boats had a 70-mile fishing line trailing behind it. Nearly 30 other Japanese fishing vessels were reported to be operating just outside the limit and were being monitored closely.

It is the first time that Japanese boats have been detained in Irish waters. The first, the *Minato Maru*, was allegedly fishing 130 miles off Galway Bay. Officers from the Irish Navy patrol craft *Aisling* boarded the trawler and later escorted her to Castletownbere, Co Cork.

A spokesman for the Department of Defence said: "The Japanese boat was carrying eight tonnes of tuna and nearly 70 nautical miles of longline fishing gear, which took ten hours to recover. The lines were trailed between buoys and had thousands of other lines with baited hooks hanging from them. The Japanese apparently prefer this method to the use of nets

because it does less damage to the tuna."

Later another Irish Navy craft, the *Deirdre*, detained a second Japanese vessel which was allegedly fishing 19 miles inside the limit in the same area as the *Minato Maru*.

Irish officials said they had no recent records of Japanese boats fishing in such large numbers to the west of Ireland. The Japanese are among the world's biggest consumers of tuna, a highly prized ingredient in sushi, the rice-and-raw-fish dish. In recent years the main competition for tuna in the North Atlantic has been between Spanish, Cornish and French boats using longline gear and drift nets.

Nathan de Rozarioux, of the Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation in Newlyn, said: "Only about eight of our boats have been out tuna fishing this year. They made poor catches and poor prices and most are now back in port. I have never heard of the Japanese fishing in this area before. Perhaps they are finding tuna hard to come by elsewhere."

Apple a day keeps asthma away

WEEKEND SHOPPING

THE doubling of asthma cases has been accompanied by a halving in consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables, and some experts say this is much more to blame than air pollution. They claim that the recent revival in purchases of fresh foods is reflected in some improvement in asthma statistics. The choice of fruit and vegetables this week includes early English plums, sweedes and gooseberries.

Announced promotions include:

Asda: Oranges 99p for ten, small mangoes 59p each, rose grapefruit 25p each, chicken mince £1.09 for 300g.
Budgens: Bird's Eye southern fried chicken nuggets £1.49 for 16, Filippo Bario extra virgin olive oil £2.99 for 500ml, soft scoop vanilla ice cream £1.19 for 2l.
Co-op: Prime young beef silverside/topside £4.39 kg, fresh chicken breast fillets £3.79 for 500g, Italian style fresh turkey breast steaks £2.74 for four, Duo fruit yoghurts 25p for 175g.
Harrods: Fish kebabs £4.99 each, smoked lamb £2.99 for 100g, Italian vegetable salad 89p for 100g.
Iceland: Sliced green beans £1.39 for 400g, petit pois 39p for 400g, orange and ginger chicken breasts £2.29 for 300g, prawns £3.99 for 400g, smoked haddock fillets £2.99 for 600g.
Marks & Spencer: Tree-ripe

peaches £1.49 for four, smoked salmon pâté 99p tub, salmon fillets £8.99 for six.

Morrisons: Minced beef 99p lb, sirloin/rump steak £3.99 lb, frozen haddock fillets £2.99 for 800g, Norwich Show first prize white/coloured farmhouse Cheshire cheese £2.19 lb.

Sainsbury's: Supertrim diced braised steak £2.69 for 454g, eight chicken breast fillets £7.99 for 1.1kg, Scottish smoked salmon £5.99 for 450g, pork and herb sausages £1.19 for 454g, West Country farmhouse cheddar £2.25 for 400g, coleslaw 33p 4lb, corn on the cob 99p for five, lasagne 99p for 300g.

Sainsbury's: Runner beans 69p lb, mixed peppers 99p for three, cauliflower 49p each, nectarines 89p for eight, white seeded grapes top lb, fruit cocktail £1.85 for 2l, salmon steaks £7.50 for two.

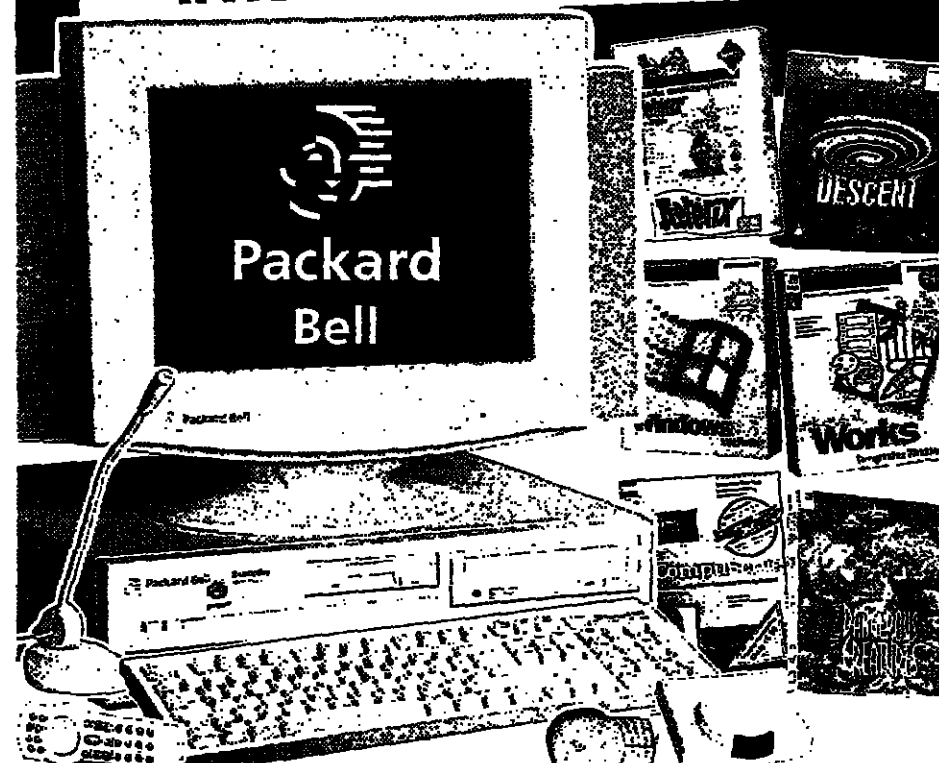
Somerfield: Carrots 12p lb, dwarf beans 79p for 250g, Puffin new potatoes 39p for 1.5kg, red pears 39p lb.

Tesco: Runner beans 79p lb, haricots verts £1.19 lb, nectarines 14p each, white seedless grapes 74p lb, Waitrose: Green beans £1.29 for 300g, curly lettuce 39p each, green-greens 79p lb, large Golia melons 99p each, Italian nectarines 99p for eight, vanilla ice cream £1.99 for 2l, luxury toffee pecan ice cream £1.75 for 500ml.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY AUGUST 23 1996

Last resting place of monarchy with no future

Graves shed light on ancient British rulers

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have discovered the last resting place of the ancient British ruling class, forced into submission by the Roman invasion. The graves, near Colchester, contain the bones of close relations and aides of Cunobelin — Shakespeare's Cymbeline — who was the most important British king at the time of the Roman invasion in AD 43.

Together with the bones in one grave were a Spanish amphora, probably buried full of wine, a bronze strainer, a large Samian bowl with moulded decoration, a brooch and a bronze saucepan. To keep the grave's occupant amused in the afterlife, it also contained the remains of a gaming board, with at least one of the blue and white counters that would have been used to play a long-lost game. The remaining counters are expected to be found as the excavation continues.

In a nearby grave a beautiful glass jar, blue and shot through with streaks of different colours, has been found close to another group of bones. Just a few inches tall, it was probably used for ointment or oil. In the same grave was found a blue glass bead the size of a cherry and



Glassware from one of the graves. After cremation, the royals were buried with utensils and games

decorated with swirls of brown.

The finds, made by a team from the Colchester Archaeological Trust led by Philip Crummy, are the most important made at the site, long known to have been the site of a British funerary enclosure. They shed new light on the burial customs of the British aristocracy, which was conquered by a Roman force led by Claudius.

Cunobelin was the king of the Catuvellauni, a tribe that dominated the area and was the most important in southern England. The Romans described him as King of Britain.

As soon as they landed on the coast of Kent and defeated

a British force at Richborough, they made for the Colchester area, then a big population centre. They marched to London along the North Downs, and then on to Colchester, easily subduing British resistance.

The tradition among the British was for important people to be cremated on a funeral pyre. Their bones were then given a ritual funeral together with their possessions. Unfortunately for the archaeologists, the custom was to smash the pots and glassware before they were arranged in the grave.

In a few graves — probably those of more junior people or more distant relatives of Cunobelin, Mr Crummy be-

lieves — the artefacts were not smashed. In one, a complete dinner service consisting of earthenware plates is carefully laid out, together with the intact wine amphora.

The objects and bones would originally have been laid out in stout wooden boxes or chests, and of these no trace remains except the nails and the odd wood stain on the soil. Before cremation, the bodies would have lain in state in a central position on the site, surrounded by their various possessions.

"These burials were rare," Mr Crummy said. "I don't believe we have yet found the grave of Cunobelin himself, but these people must have been his relations — brothers, uncles, maybe — and he would certainly have been present here for the ritual burials."

The excavation has been funded by Tarmac, which is holding an open day tomorrow between 10am and 4pm. The site is almost opposite Colchester Zoo, with parking near the volunteers' camp site.

Ian Findlater, regional director of Tarmac Quarry Products, said that Tarmac was delighted to support the dig. The company has suspended gravel excavation on the site to give the archaeologists time to complete their work.



The site at Colchester provides fresh evidence about British funeral customs

Anti-drug mob fury halted by riot police

By Audrey Magee

A CROWD threw stones and petrol bombs in a protest near the home of an alleged drug dealer yesterday, setting fire to his car. Police in riot gear were called to disperse them.

About 200 people had gathered to cheer outside the flats of three alleged dealers as they were arrested in Summerhill, Dublin. However, the mood turned violent as residents accused the Government of not doing enough to curb drugs. Police finally sealed off the area.

George Royal, a member of the residents' association, said: "We have tried every lawful avenue open to us. We have been to the police, the Minister for Justice and nothing has changed. The only thing now is violence." The alleged dealers were subsequently released on bail.

About 7,000 people live in the one square mile around Summerhill, and approximately 1,500 are said to be using heroin, including children as young as 12. Most dealers buy supplies directly from Dublin's drug barons, two of whom are believed responsible for the murder of the investigative journalist Veronica Guerin.

Vigilante groups began forming in suburbs last April, holding all-night vigils and harassing dealers. One dealer was beaten to death last May.

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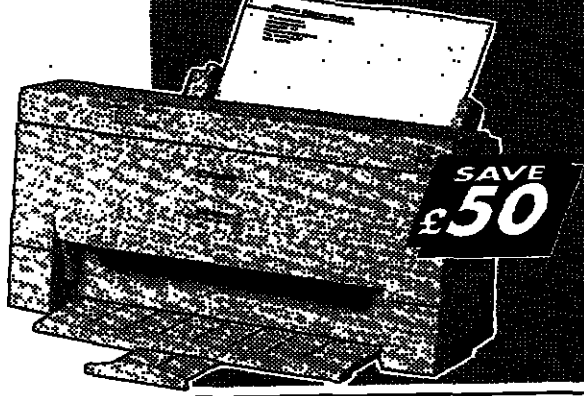


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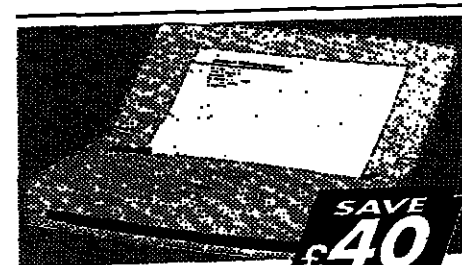
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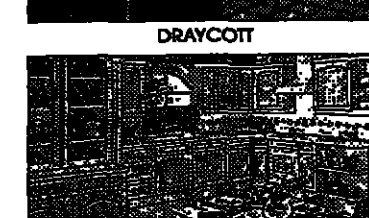
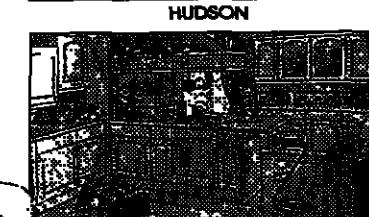
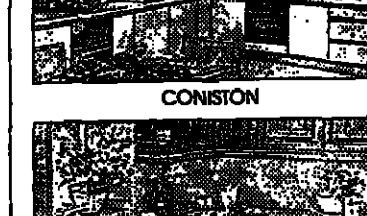
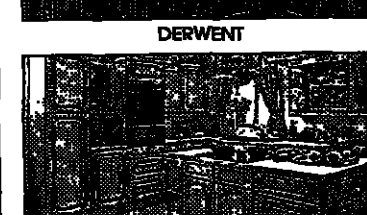
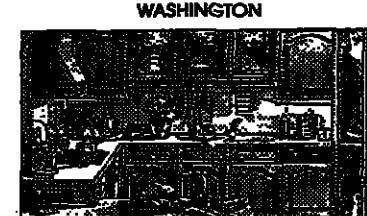
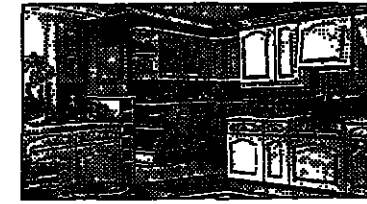
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Giant tortoises threatened by island plague

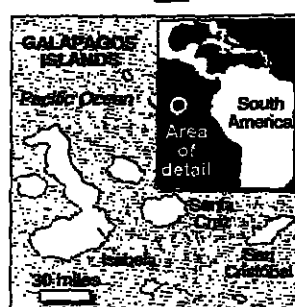
By Nick Nuttall
Environment
Correspondent

A MYSTERIOUS disease has killed eight giant tortoises in the Galapagos Islands this month, leading to fears that an epidemic could decimate some of the world's most fascinating creatures.

Staff and researchers at the Galapagos National Park and the Charles Darwin Research Station have cordoned off a pond in an area called El Chato, on the island of Santa Cruz, to try to halt the spread of the disease.

Scientists are concerned to make sure that the disease is kept away from a rearing area for giant tortoises, 15 miles away. Some of the tortoises, an inspiration for Darwin's theory of evolution after he visited the islands off the coast of Ecuador, have been found with blood and froth pouring from their eyes, noses and mouths.

As well as the eight that



have died, nine show signs of illness and apparent evidence of malnutrition. They seem lethargic, remaining immobile for several days, park staff said yesterday.

Nigel Sitwell, of the Galapagos Conservation Trust in London, said yesterday that the infected area held about 3,000 giant tortoises. "They have prohibited anyone going into the reserve to protect the lives of the tortoises not already affected, as it could be spread by people tramping around."

Mr Sitwell said that the

infection was another sad blow for the tortoises, 11 races or sub-species of which remain out of the estimated 15 races that once populated the islands. The tortoises are being harmed by introduced species and the area is under increasing pressure from tourism and a population explosion.

"Most of the giant tortoises are threatened for one reason or another, mostly by the presence of feral goats which out-compete them for food," Mr Sitwell said. "On the island of Isabela, one of the biggest islands, with the majority of the tortoises, there has been an explosion in the goat population. At least one of the tortoise races will die out soon: it has only one male left, who is known as Lonesome George."

Dr Linda Cayot, a scientist at the Charles Darwin Research Station, said yesterday that blood and tissue tests were being carried out on the dead and sick tortoises. The



Giant tortoises on the island of Isabela: they were the inspiration for Darwin's theory of evolution

diet might have weakened the animals sufficiently to make them vulnerable to attacks by diseases such as parasites. Preliminary tests indicate that the sick tortoises have high levels of nematode worms in their bodies.

Another possibility is that a

prolonged drought has concentrated diseases into the water, which may have been spread by cattle introduced near by. A return of rains could wash the infectious agent away.

Darwin first encountered the tortoises in 1835 when he

arrived on HMS Beagle. He was intrigued to see that the islands had different races of tortoises distinguished by their shells, some having dome-shaped and others having saddle-shaped shells, depending on the height of the vegetation. Later the tortoises,

which evolved from the same species to fit subtly different ecological niches, played their role with such creatures as the islands' finches in helping Darwin to form his theory of evolution.

Leading article, page 21

'Rapist' is questioned on Brittany murder

Police in Brittany investigating the rape and murder of Caroline Dickinson yesterday interviewed a man arrested after allegedly confessing to two rapes and one attempted rape in the region during the past three months.

Police said that no direct link had been established with the murder of the Launceston schoolgirl, but that the man would be subjected to DNA testing. He was picked up in St-Malo, 200 miles from Fougères, where she had been killed on July 13.

Bomb made safe

Almost 1,000 people were moved from their homes on Wednesday night when a Second World War bomb was found in Sheffield. They began returning yesterday after disposal experts blew up the 600lb bomb, which was found during building work.

Parole denied

The IRA bomber Ella O'Dwyer has been refused compassionate parole to leave Maghaberry jail in Co Antrim to visit her sick father in the Irish Republic. The Home Office said it did not allow Category A prisoners to leave the country.

Eagle has landed

A lost eagle has been found safe, resting in a tree near Kendal, Cumbria. Olga, a Steppe Eagle with a 6ft wingspan, went off course on a high thermal during a demonstration at the UK Falconry Centre near Thirsk, North Yorkshire, last Sunday.

£200 for pinch

A shipbroker who pinched a policeman's bottom was ordered by Clerkenwell magistrates, London, to pay her £200 compensation. Barry Williams, 23, of Beckenham, southeast London, admitted indecently assaulting WPC Jacqueline Addison.

Pollution penalty

Magistrates fined South West Water £7,000 for breaching environmental standards at a sewage treatment works. The company admitted discharging effluent with twice the specified level of ammonia into a stream near Camborne, west Cornwall.

Terrier taxed

Customs officials have apologised to a woman whose Jack Russell, Bella, has been receiving VAT forms for three months. By an "extraordinary coincidence", the forms were intended for a firm of the same name at another address in Suffolk, they said.

A church without people gets new pastor

By Paul Wilkinson

A TINY chapel run by the United Reformed Church on Holy Island has appointed a new minister. The challenge to the Rev Ian Fosten is that it has no congregation.

The last member of the Nonconformist flock there died four months ago and most of the 180 population of the remote Northumbrian island attend Church of England services.

But Mr Fosten, 40, has not been sent on an evangelical "mission impossible" to the island, known historically as Lindisfarne and regarded as the cradle of Christianity in Britain. "The C of E parish church is where people on the island worship," he said. "It is not my intention to start recruiting."

"But up to half a million people visit the island each year and many have been drawn to Lindisfarne because of its spiritual connections and have needs I can minister to in my little chapel."

Mr Fosten has other duties, including twice-weekly services at Chatton, ten miles away on the mainland. He has spent the past 14 years at a congregation in Norfolk.

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Mbeki apologises for ANC atrocities during struggle

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

IN BOLD evidence before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's First Deputy President, apologised yesterday for atrocities committed during the struggle against apartheid, but defended his party's "just war" against white rule.

"We recognise there were excesses and want to apologise," Mr Mbeki said in reply to a question from the panel.

Seated in the positions occupied a day earlier by their one-time foes from the National Party, Mr Mbeki led a 23-member team that included Cabinet ministers, provincial leaders and backbench MPs. Among several hundred supporters who sat spellbound through the hearing was a man wearing a T-shirt with the words "ANC One Nation For Peace And Democracy".

Mr Mbeki told Archbishop Desmond Tutu, chairman of the commission, that the ANC resorted to violence in its struggle for democracy only in 1980 after white rule had blocked all other avenues of protest. "In the end, the fundamental issue we would like to present to the [commission] is that as a liberation movement we engaged

in a just war for liberation," he said. "The conduct of that war should not be the subject of these proceedings."

Nevertheless Mr Mbeki conceded that some ANC members had exceeded their orders and the ANC statement acknowledged that the fight against government infiltration in ANC exile bases had been at times brutal. The statement named 34 people executed on the

Party's evidence on Wednesday and gave details of individual incidents. F.W. de Klerk, the National Party leader and Second Deputy President, said that his party had much to apologise for, but he said he had never sanctioned assassination and torture and argued that apartheid had been an honest, though misguided, attempt to govern South Africa. Mr Mbeki tackled the issue of

heal the past by confronting it and this week it has heard submissions from political parties to help in formulating a framework for judging whether acts of violence and human rights abuses were committed with a political motive.

Mr Mbeki said that the commission was a compromise between a "Nuremberg trials scenario" and an opportunity for perpetrators to escape without punishment; he added that there were many questions the commission needed answers to in connection with the murder of ANC members and the apartheid system.

He called for the commission to reopen investigations into the 1983 murder of Chris Hani, the Communist Party leader. He also asked the commission to re-examine the cause of the plane crash in which President Machel of Mozambique, an ANC ally, was killed in October 1986.

Much discussion hinged on the amnesty question and Mr Mbeki rejected the National Party's call for a general amnesty for perpetrators, saying that it was important that individuals should come forward and that their cases should be examined on merit.

6 The fundamental issue we would like to present is that as a movement we engaged in a just war for liberation 7

orders of an ANC tribunal in Angola between 1980 and 1989. An ANC document listed details of torture methods used in a detention camp. "There were instances where we could have acted more firmly and speedily to prevent or stop abuses, and for that the ANC accepts collective responsibility," Mr Mbeki said.

The ANC statement, notwithstanding some gaps, was in marked contrast to the National

human rights abuses head-on and several times offered his party's apologies for what had happened. Replying to a question from the panel, he said it was wrong to think that the ANC had not told relations of the dead what had happened to their loved ones during the exile years and he referred to earlier statements released by the ANC in which the party apologised.

The truth commission aims to



Mbeki, First Deputy President, rejected calls for a general amnesty

Military kills 6,000 civilians after coup

FROM REUTERS IN BURUNDI

MORE than 6,000 people in Burundi were reported killed in the three weeks since the July 25 army coup, according to Amnesty International.

In a statement yesterday, the London-based group said the human rights situation in Burundi had continued to deteriorate, despite promises by Pierre Buyoya, the new Tutsi military ruler, to stop the killings.

Amnesty said it had learned that at least 4,050 unarmed civilians were killed between July 27 and August 10 by government forces in the Giheta district of the central province of Gitega alone.

"Most of these victims were killed after the army came to their villages, ostensibly to obtain information about movements of rebels. Soldiers then assembled the victims and shot them," it said.

The United Nations refugee agency said it had completed the repatriation from Burundi of more than 45,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees.

Change of mood as saintly Mandela's frailty is exposed

NELSON MANDELA'S formal announcement that he will not seek another term as the ANC's — and thus South Africa's — president comes at a time when there has been an almost tangible change of mood in the country.

The combination of a continuing corruption scandal, the Government's apparent impotence in the face of a crime wave, the rise of vigilantism, together with other signs that the Government lacks any sort of grip, has led to sharp criticisms of President Mandela in the press and even on the state-controlled radio.

For the first time, one can hear voices raised arguing that Mandela's usefulness is at an end and that it would be better if he went now rather than waiting until 1999.

The President remains hugely popular on a purely personal level. The most recent poll gave him a 76 per cent approval rating, but this appreciation is, in a sense, hollow.

There are three main reasons for the change in mood. The fact that Mr Mandela has had to own up to an accusation that he accepted 2 million rands (£300,000) from a casino magnate has done enormous damage. Worse, Mr Mandela claims this payment was only one of

many such contributions of which he alone was aware.

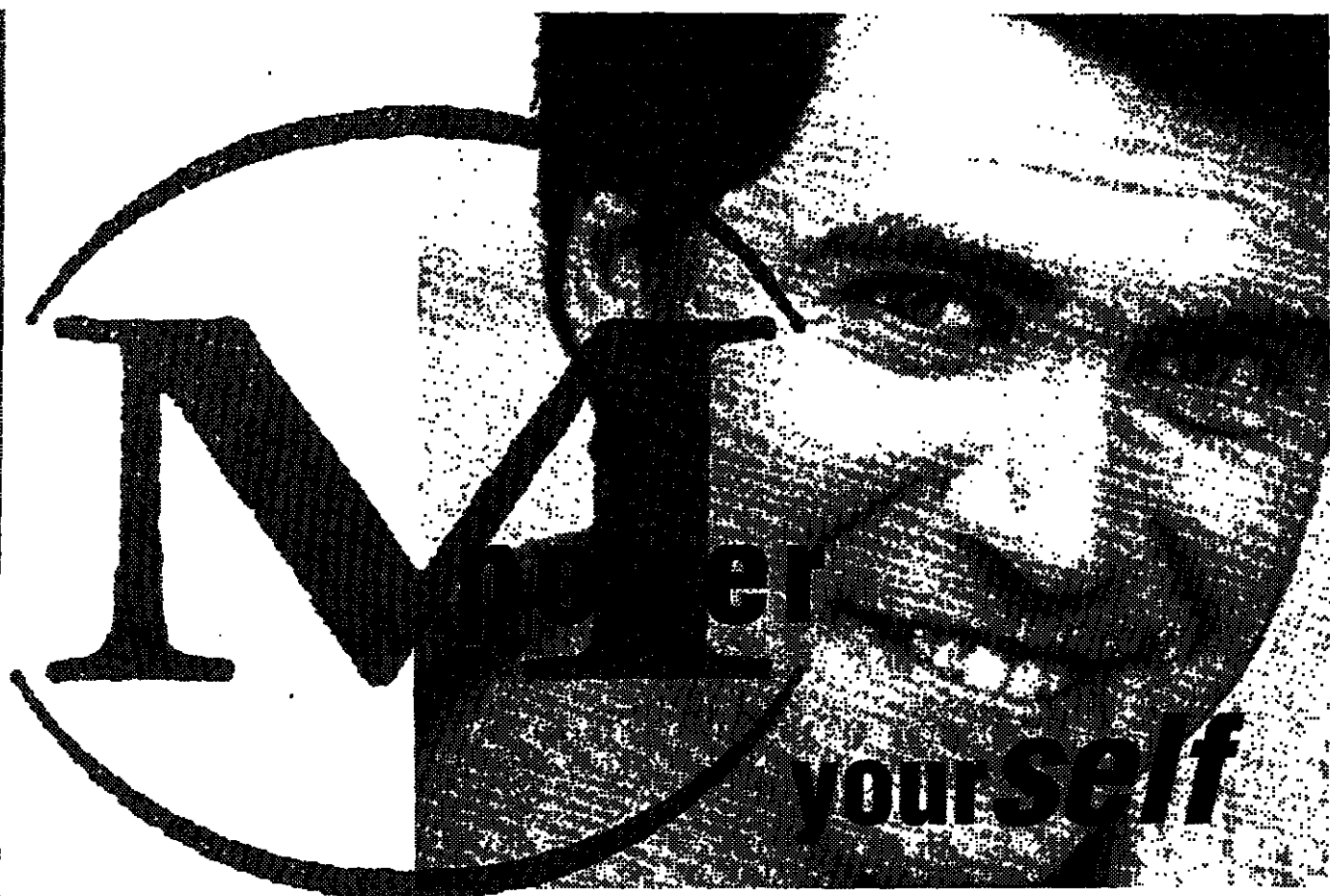
Secondly, there is crime. Stories abound of corrupt policemen, of Cabinet ministers associating with drug lords and of a general Government unwillingness to go beyond rhetoric in the struggle against crime.

Finally, there is the fact that Mr Mandela is beginning to show his 78 years. Recently he referred to Jim Bolger, the visiting New Zealand Prime Minister, as an Australian, and continued to do so even after Mr Bolger had corrected him.

Similarly, television showed him receiving a deputation of "Women Against Rape" with irrelevant boasts of how many women there were in the Cabinet until one of the women asked what on earth that had to do with rape. Or again, it was noticeable that Mandela, while defending Cheryl Carolus, the ANC acting secretary-general, repeatedly referred to her as "he".

Probably none of this will be enough to make Mr Mandela go. But more and more voices are asking whether the country can really afford an ineffectual president for the next two and a half years.

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BUSINESS EDITOR L

Move seen

German cut 'chain'

By Janet B

THE Bundesbank surprised and delighted financial markets yesterday with an aggressive cut in interest rates that was widely interpreted as an attempt to keep plans for a single currency on track.

Germany's central bank said that it was cutting its repo rate from 3.3 per cent to 3 per cent, a much bigger cut than analysts had expected. Its official discount and Lombard rates were held unchanged as expected, at 2.25 per cent and 4.5 per cent respectively.

The Bank of France swiftly followed, cutting its key intervention rate to 3.35 per cent from 3.55 per cent. Belgium

Departing chairman given £488,000

By Alasdair Murray

MALCOLM DAGUL, former chairman of Southend Property Holdings, left the company this year with a golden handshake worth nearly £500,000, in addition to selling his personal shareholding for £15.2 million.

Mr Dagul stepped down after agreeing a reverse takeover of Old Hall Estates Group.

As part of the deal, he sold his 20 per cent stake in Southend at 71.5p a share, a 52 per cent premium to the market price at the time of 47p.

The company's annual report reveals that Mr Dagul left with a £488,000 payoff, equivalent to twice his basic salary.

He also received a total pay package of £329,000 for the part of the year he served before stepping down.

Mr Dagul sold his 21 million shares to the vendors of Old Hall, including Graeme Jackson, who has become chief executive of Southend, and Neil Ankers who has taken over as finance director.

Mr Dagul had become disillusioned with the performance of the company.

Southend incurred a loss of £10 million in the year to the end of March and declined to pay a final dividend. It has also been forced to cut its net assets per share valuation from 91.7p to 62p, while its share price has sagged to 35p.

The company intends to change its name to Hampton Trust after its annual meeting next month.

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How state schools are catching up on the independents
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Crawley's patient innings keeps England in touch
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY AUGUST 23 1996

Move seen as bid to aid EMU German rate cut starts a chain reaction

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bundesbank surprised and delighted financial markets yesterday with an aggressive cut in interest rates that was widely interpreted as an attempt to keep plans for a single currency on track.

Germany's central bank said that it was cutting its repo rate from 3.3 per cent to 3 per cent, a much bigger cut than analysts had expected. Its official discount and Lombard rates were held unchanged, as expected, at 2.25 per cent and 4.5 per cent respectively.

The Bank of France swiftly followed, cutting its key intervention rate to 3.35 per cent from 3.55 per cent. Belgium,

The Netherlands and Austria also cut rates. Outside Europe, Canada seized the opportunity to cut rates too.

Shares were boosted throughout Europe and the dollar jumped against the mark. In London, the FT-SE 100 index closed 19 points higher at 3,891.1, another record high. The dollar, which closed in New York on Wednesday at around DM1.4825, rallied to DM1.4965 in late European trade yesterday.

The size of the Bundesbank's move convinced most commentators that the bank was trying to head off any further currency turmoil, particularly surrounding the franc, which has wobbled recently, in order to keep plans for monetary union in 1999 on track.

from falling further, the EMU project would clearly be put at risk. This is an outcome which not only the German Government but also the Bundesbank would fight to prevent.

The official explanation for yesterday's move from Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank President, was a slowdown in the growth of German M3 money supply and low inflation. Earlier this week, annualised growth slowed to 8.6 per cent in July from 9.6 per cent in June.

But hopes of a monetary easing had then faded after a much stronger reading of business confidence from the Ifo institute, which many economists thought might stay the Bundesbank's hand.

Bundesbank watchers concluded that, apart from a desire to offer a helping hand to France through its difficult deficit-cutting process, the German bank was also uncomfortable with the strength of the mark in spite of the latest hint in survey evidence that the economy seems to be recovering.

Others suggested that, by moving the repo rate in one large move, the Bundesbank hoped to erase speculation about easier rates in Germany once and for all.

Further evidence that the American economy may be slowing from its robust second quarter growth came in figures yesterday showing that the number of Americans filing for unemployment benefit has risen for the third week in a row.

This news was seen as early justification for the decision this week by the US Federal Reserve not to raise American interest rates.

Pennington, page 27

Departing chairman given £488,000

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MALCOLM DAGUL, former chairman of Southend Property Holdings, left the company this year with a golden handshake worth nearly £500,000, in addition to selling his personal shareholding for £152 million.

Mr Dagul stepped down after agreeing a reverse takeover of Old Hall Estates Group.

As part of the deal, he sold his 20 per cent stake in Southend at 71.5p a share, a 52 per cent premium to the market price at the time, of 47p.

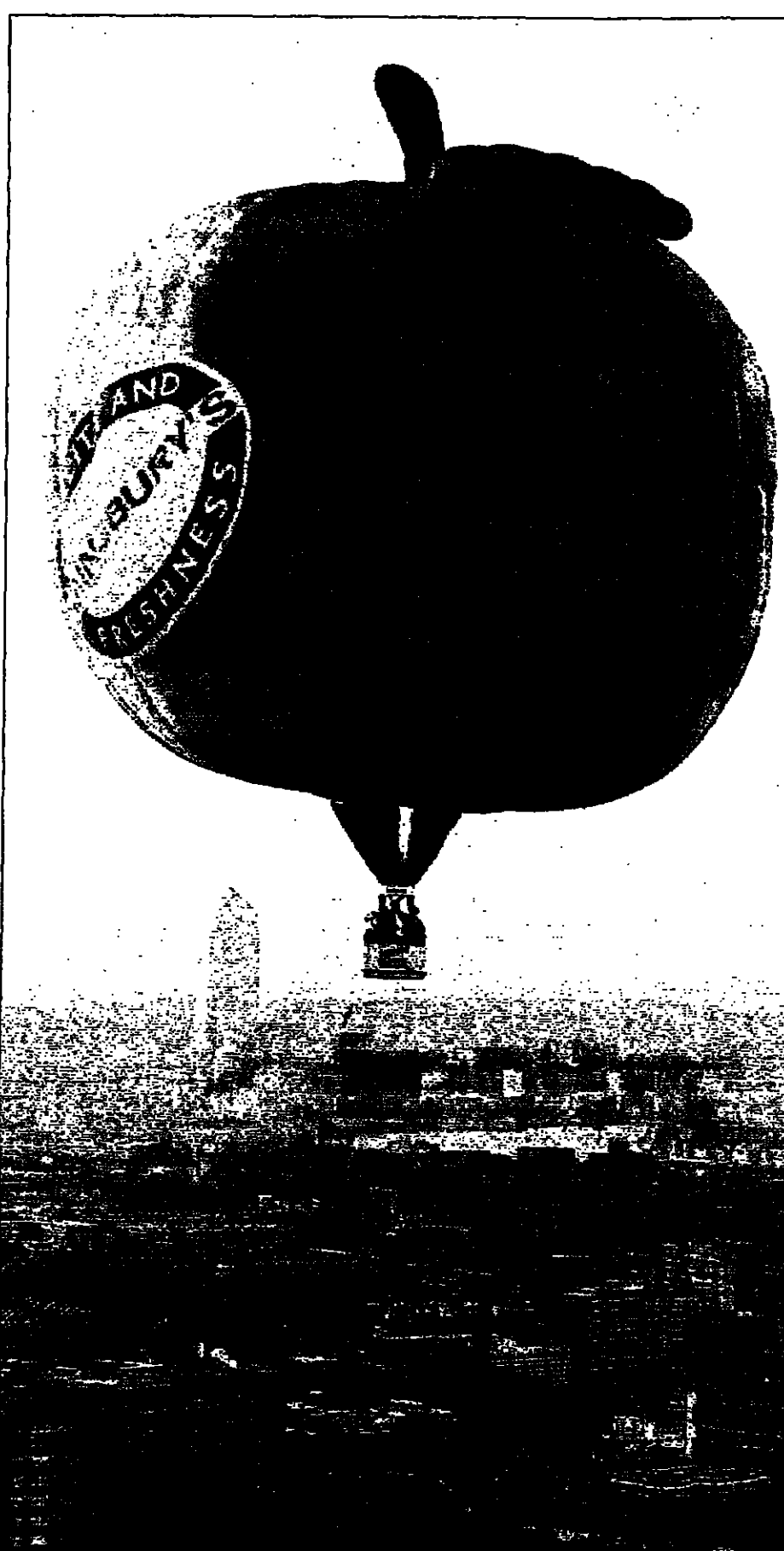
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The company intends to change its name to Hampton Trust after its annual meeting next month.



J Sainsbury yesterday launched its "Flying Circus" of hot air balloons in the shapes of fruit and vegetables. The balloons are being used to promote the supermarket chain's fresh produce and will appear at Sainsbury stores across the country in the coming weeks

Tobacco moves knock BAT shares

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

A FURTHER £750 million was wiped off the market value of BAT, the tobacco and financial services company, yesterday — as the smoking industry continued to be dogged by legal and regulatory challenges in the US.

The shares fell 24p to close at 422p. More than £5 billion has been knocked off the market value of the company since the shares hit a high of 585p in February.

The latest decline comes after news that the White House is on the verge of imposing strict new regulations on tobacco advertising and sales and fears that the industry is set to lose another damages case.

The new federal rules are expected to be similar to recommendations made last year by the Food and Drug Administration. These include a ban on cigarette vending machines and mail-order sales and restrictions on advertising that may be seen by minors.

BAT, which owns Brown and Williamson in the US, yesterday insisted that it was not worried by the impact of the advertising regulations.

But BAT, in common with other tobacco companies, will take legal action if the White House concedes jurisdiction of the industry to the FDA. The FDA insists tobacco should be classified as a drug and that it should be granted complete freedom to regulate its sale.

The market has also been troubled by the outcome of a case in Indiana involving a woman claiming damages for the death of her husband from smoking-related causes. Legal experts believe a defeat for the industry, so closely after the award of \$750,000 in another damages case, would imply a sea-change in court attitudes.

Analysts claimed that the latest fall in BAT's price may rule out the possibility of a demerger.

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City Diary, page 29
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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3891.1	(+19.0)
Yield	4.02%	
FT-SE All share	1822.49	(+8.30)
Nikkei	21363.24	(+88.22)
New York	5713.48	(+23.67)
Dow Jones	667.79	(+2.72)
S&P Composite		

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5%)
Long Bond	98 1/4%	(98 1/4%)
Yield	6.86%	(6.84%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Libor long gill		
Future (Sep)	107 1/4%	(107 1/4%)

STERLING

New York	1.5507*	(1.5502)
London		
\$	1.5486	(1.5506)
DM	2.3164	(2.2975)
FF	7.6850	(7.6584)
Sfr	1.6753	(1.6596)
Yen	167.88	(167.92)
£ Index	85.1	(84.7)

US DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.4910*	(1.4826)
FF	6.8832*	(6.8703)
Sfr	1.2068*	(1.2005)
Yen	108.22*	(108.48)
\$ Index	96.5	(96.2)

Tokyo close Yen 108.26

EURO DOLLAR

Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$20.05	(\$19.75)
Gold		
London close	\$387.35	(\$387.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Giving it away

THE prospect of stronger growth as this year progresses, improving still further in 1997, should mean that the Chancellor opts for a cautious Budget in November, according to the Confederation of British Industry. The CBI, which yesterday unveiled both its latest economic forecast and its monthly trends survey, said that it now expects Kenneth Clarke to give away tax cuts worth £2 billion.

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Holding on

Rentokil, the pest control and services company, surprised the City yesterday by saying that it was not planning to sell off large parts of BET, the rival business services group that it bought earlier this year. Page 27. Pennington 27

Farmers support Dairy Crest float

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

FARMERS have shown overwhelming support for the £171 million Dairy Crest flotation, with 88 per cent of the 29,000 eligible for free shares in the company opting to take them, rather than a cash alternative.

The farmers, who formerly owned Dairy Crest through the Milk Marketing Board, will between them have majority control of the company's shares when dealings start on August 28.

An offer to backers of a rolling fund, which was set up to settle some outstanding debts, was oversubscribed.

Institutional investors took their full allotment of 33 million shares, equal to 30

per cent of the total in issue.

The company reduced its flotation price to 155p at the end of last month because of the difficult market conditions for new issues. Initially analysts had expected Dairy Crest to go for nearer 190p per share.

Lord Rayleigh's Dairies, the Essex-based company that supplies milk to London and the south east of England, has gone into administration because of tough trading conditions, including the rising cost of raw milk. The administrators, from Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, are in talks with possible buyers and hope to conclude a deal shortly.

Soccer transfers inquiry launched

By JASON NISSE

THE Inland Revenue has launched an investigation into the transfer of as many as 80 football players from European clubs to the Premiership in England.

The existence of the inquiry, by the Revenue's Special Compliance Office, was revealed yesterday by Peter Hill-Wood, chairman of Arsenal, at the annual shareholders' meeting.

At the same time, he said Arsenal had decided against a stock market flotation for the time being. The club recently asked Merrill Lynch, the broker, to look into a float.

The Inland Revenue confirmed the investigation, saying that it was looking at all the transfers that had taken

place over the last two seasons. In that time, 76 players have been bought from European clubs. Total value of the transfer transactions is about £200 million and the amount of unpaid tax could run into tens of millions.

The board of West Ham United pushed through its controversial plans to limit trading in its shares, despite the motion being lost on a show-of-hands vote at the club's extraordinary shareholders' meeting. Only one of the shareholders attending supported the motion. The board held proxies for 89 per cent of the shares, comfortably outvoting the 3 per cent who opposed the motion.

Which? credit cards launched

By SARAH JONES



The no-fee Which? cards

ALL eyes will be on the Consumers' Association after its launch yesterday of a Which? credit card. "One would hope they offer the most competitive rate," was the joke going round the rest of the credit card industry.

Many a true word is spoken in jest, however, but the rates published by the association yesterday did not appear particularly attractive.

Unbashed the association is proud of its first financial product, which will give cardholders free access to the Which? legal team offering, it says, "real consumer power" and setting the agenda in terms of consumer service.

The credit card industry was quick to put down its latest rival. One company asked: "How will they be able to report unbiasedly on credit cards from now on?"

The association said: "We have an undisputed track record for independence in scrutinising goods and services and hope that the Which? name will carry as much clout at the checkout as it already does in the high street."

Sheila McKechie, the association's director, added: "By entering the market, Which? will have an impact on overall levels of service and will benefit all consumers long term."

The card, which *The Times* revealed was in the offing five months ago, will be run by Beneficial Bank, known for running affinity cards. There is no annual fee. The interest rate starts at 13.9 per cent APR, but jumps to 18.9 per cent APR after six months. On the Gold card, there is an introductory rate of 11.9 per cent, rising to 16.9 per cent.

Beneficial will pay the association £5 for every card taken out and make donations of 0.27 per cent every time a card is used.

J Sainsbury yesterday became the first major supermarket chain to agree to accept the American Express card in all its stores. The companies said that the decision was reached after a successful trial in ten stores.

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Signet in talks over jewellery buyout

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE MANAGERS of Signet's Ernest Jones and H Samuel jewellery chains are to be in talks about buying out the businesses with the backing of Apax Partners, the venture capital company that has been negotiating with Signet for several months.

A plan for Apax to buy a large stake in Goldsmiths, the independent jewellery chain, and then merge its business with Ernest Jones appears to have been abandoned.

The final deal with Apax is set to be ready within the next fortnight. Apax is expected to pay at least £280 million.

Neither Apax nor Signet would comment on their continuing talks yesterday. Signet, formerly known as Ratners, plans to use the proceeds of the sale to reduce its debts, totalling £308 million at its February year end.

Jurek Piasecki, chairman and chief executive of Goldsmiths, said yesterday that he was still interested in a deal with Signet "at the right price". But he added: "Our involvement, if any, is not yet clear."

He was speaking as he revealed a pre-tax profit for Goldsmiths in the six months ended July 27 of £54,000, compared with a loss of £489,000 a year ago.

The company doubled its interim dividend to 2.4p per share. The final dividend will depend on "the all-important Christmas trading".

Mr Piasecki said like-for-like trading in the six months was up 11.7 per cent and that "August continues strong".

The company is opening five new branches this year and plans to open 15 a year for the next five years.



Jurek Piasecki, Goldsmiths chairman and chief executive, revealed interim accounts in the black at £54,000

Growth prospects point to £2bn tax cuts, says CBI

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of stronger growth as this year progresses, improving still further in 1997, should mean that the Chancellor will do in November, not what he ought to do. The CBI will unveil its advice for the Budget late next month.

Nevertheless, Kate Barker, the CBI's Chief Economic Adviser and a member of the Chancellor's independent forecasting panel, hinted that any net tax giveaway would be approved. She said: "After five years of recovery, we really ought to be seeing public borrowing coming

down more quickly than it is." On interest rates, Ms Barker said the CBI would not be pressing for another cut if the economy grows as it expects.

Its forecast assumes no change in rates until the third quarter of next year when rates could rise from the current level by a quarter point to 6 per cent.

The CBI's view of the economy is rosy, with growth expected to be 2 per cent this year, accelerating to 3.1 per cent in 1997. Underlying inflation is expected to be 2.6 per cent at the end of this year and 2.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1997. The Government's inflation target is 2.5 per cent or less.

The CBI's latest monthly trends survey, published yesterday, showed manufacturing firms are reporting a rise in overall demand in August but that orders are still below normal for this time of year.

However, the news on inflation is promising, with firms expecting no change in prices for the rest of this year.

The Office for National Statistics yesterday left its estimate of second-quarter economic growth unrevised at 0.4 per cent. But a different split, with lower stocks and buoyant demand, suggested the economy could see a healthy acceleration in growth in the second half of this year.

HSBC to buy for \$620m in America

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

JUST eight months after NatWest Bank left retail banking in the United States, HSBC Holdings, parent of Midland Bank, is increasing its US retail exposure via a \$620 million deal.

Marine Midland Bank, the US retail banking subsidiary of HSBC, based in New York State, is to buy First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Rochester, New York, from Toronto-based CT Financial Services.

Marine Midland operates 330 branches in New York State and has its headquarters in Buffalo. It is the principal US subsidiary of HSBC Americas, which has \$22.7 billion in assets. HSBC said yesterday that the deal would be financed through Marine Midland's own capital. Jim Cleave, president and chief executive officer of Marine Midland Bank, and chief executive officer of HSBC Americas, said the acquisition was "aimed at expanding the scope of our operations to a wider retail customer base".

In December NatWest sold Bancorp, its US retail banking subsidiary, for \$3.6 billion.

Midland Marine's latest proposed purchase follows its acquisition in 1994 of Spectrum Home Mortgage, which now operates in eight US states. In 1995 it acquired United Northern Federal Savings Bank with branches in New York, as well as the six New York City-based retail branches of HSBC's Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd.

First Federal has \$7.2 billion in assets, 1,600 employees and 79 retail branches in New York State. HSBC said it hoped the transaction would be completed by year-end.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

US delay as Lloyd's plan deadline nears

LLOYD'S of London faced another agonising wait yesterday after an American judge delayed ruling on a crucial case in Virginia for another day. District Judge Robert Payne had been expected to rule yesterday on an application by a group of American names seeking an injunction on the Lloyd's £3.2 billion settlement plan. The names say they need full details of the proposed financing of Equitas, the planned new reinsurer company, before deciding whether to back the reconstruction and renewal plan.

Lloyd's says the case belongs in the UK courts. Ron Sandler, chief executive, remains in Richmond, Virginia, for the court ruling, which comes dangerously close to the deadline for accepting the Lloyd's settlement offer. Names have until noon on Wednesday to return their acceptance forms — or risk being pursued through the courts for their liabilities. Lloyd's will immediately appeal against an adverse ruling.

Grid out to lobby Offer

THE National Grid is urging its shareholders to lobby Offer, the electricity industry regulator, over the company's impending price control review. A letter is being sent to shareholders just a day after Ofgas climbed down on its price proposals for British Gas's pipelines business. The Grid, which faced criticism from its regulator over remuneration levels, denied that it was trying to make political capital from concessions offered by Ofgas after lobbying from British Gas shareholders. The Grid will send more than a million letters outlining its case, in which asset valuation is fundamental.

Beer system backed

JOHN TAYLOR, the Corporate and Consumer Affairs Minister, has defended the guest beer system operated by Britain's pubs. In a letter to Stewart Miller, managing director of Whitbread pubs, Mr Taylor said: "The [European] Commission's concern is that the provision indirectly discriminates in favour of UK brewers, contrary to Article 30 of the Treaty of Rome. The UK does not accept this." The guest beer provision allows pub tenants tied to national brewers to buy any cask-conditioned beer. But as most continental brewers produce lager, the EC ruled the provision to be discriminatory.

Sharp drop at Avesta

AVESTA SHEFFIELD, the Anglo-Swedish stainless steel company, yesterday reported a sharp drop in profits for the first quarter. Avesta said: "A further deterioration in profits is expected for the second quarter. There are, however, signs that sales prices will recover during the autumn." Avesta, 51 per cent owned by British Steel, reported pre-tax profits of \$1.228 million (£22.6 million) for the first quarter, almost \$1.1 million lower. Sales fell 25 per cent to \$1.458 billion. Demand for stainless products have been satisfactory but cold-rolled product prices have fallen sharply.

Qantas needs more cuts

QANTAS, the Australian airline, yesterday delivered a 37 per cent rise in full-year net profits but said it would need to cut a further \$100 million (£50 million) from its cost base this year to compensate for an expected slowdown in revenue growth. The airline, in which British Airways has a 25 per cent stake, has already pledged to cut its cost base by \$1 billion over three years. Total revenues were \$3,380 million below expectations, in spite of rising 6.1 per cent to \$57.6 billion. International operating profits edged up to \$267.8 million, helped by higher returns from UK and US routes.

Whatman interim rises

WHATMAN, the specialist separations technology company, is increasing the interim dividend by 12 per cent to 4.5p a share after reporting a seven per cent rise in profits to £5.2 million before tax in the six months to June 30. Earnings also rose seven per cent to 14.5p a share. The shares rose 34p to 469p yesterday. The company said prospects for each sector of the business were good, adding that the market was responding enthusiastically to its new products.

BASF issues warning

BASF, the German chemicals company, yesterday said its 1996 profits would at least match those of 1995, but gave warning there were still no signs of any sustained economic recovery. BASF reported pre-tax profits rose 14.7 per cent to DM2.32 billion in the first half of this year. In the second quarter profits rose five per cent to DM1.2 billion. Earnings growth in the first half was largely attributable to a reduction in special charges and favourable currency movements. The number of employees at BASF fell by 1,157.

US hope at Albert Fisher

ALBERT FISHER, the food processing and distribution group, said yesterday that it is close to reaching a deal for the disposal of a majority holding in its north American distribution business. Discussions with an unnamed financial partner are progressing satisfactorily and are now well advanced, the company said. A deal is expected within a month. In an upbeat trading statement ahead of its final results in October, the company said continuing operations are showing strong growth compared with last year.

H&C in palm oil deal

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, the timber and building products company, is to sell its 54 per cent interest in New Britain Palm Oil to the State of Papua New Guinea for \$65.5 million. The business comprises palm oil plantations, a small coffee estate, and an oil crushing and processing plant. It earned operating profits of £26.7 million on sales of £74 million in 1995. Net assets were £54.4 million at the year-end. The transaction continues H&C's withdrawal from commodity areas, freeing funds for investment in industrial business.

Elliott cleared of Elders charge

FROM REUTERS IN MELBOURNE

AN AUSTRALIAN court has acquitted John Elliott, a former corporate high-flyer, of defrauding his old business empire of \$66.5 million (£33.2 million), making him a rare survivor of the free-wheeling 1980s.

Mr Elliott, once head of one of Australia's biggest companies and renowned to have been a prime ministerial hopeful, grinned and hugged his family after the Supreme Court found him not guilty.

"I have today been totally vindicated," he said as he left the courtroom, in stark contrast to the case of Alan Bond, a fellow 1980s high-flyer, who was jailed for fraud this week.

The court acquitted Mr Elliott and his two co-accused of defrauding the brewing, finance and pastoral group Elders Ltd. after the prosecution withdrew its case.

An earlier court ruling meant much of the evidence against Mr Elliott and Peter Scanlon and Ken Higgins, his fellow Elders executives, was

inadmissible, the prosecution told the court. The prosecution said it would appeal.

Mr Elliott left Elders in 1992, when the group was valued at \$1.2 billion, after running up losses of more than \$43.2 billion. The Elders debt mountain has since been cut by asset sales aimed at focusing the company, now the Foster's Brewing Group, on its core brewing business.



Elliott "totally vindicated"

Banking puts ING 28% ahead in the first half

ING GROUP, the Dutch financial services company that took over Barings in 1995, yesterday said a surge in earnings from its banking business drove net profits 28 per cent higher in the first half of this year. It warned shareholders, however, that the sharp increase in net profits was unlikely to be repeated in the second half.

ING said profits rose to 1.51 billion guilders (about £58 million) from 1.18 billion guilders previously. The result was in the mid-range of analysts' forecasts of 1.46 billion and 1.56 billion guilders.

Insurance profits rose 16.8 per cent to 1.16 billion guilders while first-half pre-tax banking profit jumped 39.2 per cent to 1.02 billion guilders.

The interim dividend rises to 0.83 guilders from 0.75 guilders.

ING said it expected earnings per share for the whole of 1996 to be higher than in 1995.

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Personnel study warns of threat to jobs

Call for £3.50 wage floor

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOBS would be jeopardised if a national minimum wage were set any higher than £3.50, according to the Institute of Personnel and Development (IPD), the personnel managers' organisation.

The IPD uses a report, published today, that it commissioned from the Employment Policy Institute to lobby for a minimum wage to be set between £3 and £3.50 by the Labour Party form the next government.

Labour is committed to setting a statutory hourly national minimum wage at

though the amount has yet to be fixed. Trade unions are currently calling for the rate to be set at more than £4.

John Philpott, author of the report, says that low-paying employers in labour-intensive industries would be limited in their ability to recover higher wage bills through increased efficiency and would have to cut jobs or accept smaller profits. But he says that a minimum wage of up to £3.50 would "in all probability add less than 1 per cent to total economy-wide wage costs... and threaten few, if any jobs."

John Stevens, director of professional policy at the IPD, said: "If set too low, a minimum wage defeats its own purpose. If set too high, it threatens jobs and investment in training. It could be the last straw for employers who are already struggling to survive on low margins or compete with producers overseas."

Unison, the union covering industries such as healthcare, local government and education, is leading the call for a minimum wage to be set at £4.26, half the rate of male median earnings.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.08	1.99
Austria S	17.16	15.98
Belgium F	50.36	46.05
Canada \$	2.25	2.07
Cyprus P	0.78	0.72
Denmark K	6.78	6.29
Finland M	7.58	6.91
France F	8.58	7.81
Germany D	2.45	2.25
Greece D	363	352
Hong Kong S	5.27	4.92
Iceland I	113	108
Ireland P	1.01	0.92
Italy L	2481	2308
Japan Y	161.80	153.50
Malaysia M	0.554	0.538
Netherlands G	2.731	2.501
New Zealand \$	2.39	2.17
Norway N	10.22	9.72
Portugal E	247.00	228.00
Spain P	16.64	15.64
S. Africa R	201.50	188.00
Switzerland F	1.59	1.51
Turkey L	126.00	120.00
USA \$	1.647	1.517

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE No.002618 of 1996

CHANCERY DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF

CERLICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

IN THE MATTER OF

CERLICAL MEDICAL INVESTMENT GROUP LIMITED

IN THE MATTER OF

THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1962

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 9 May 1996

presented to the Master of the High Court of Justice in London for the

appointment of a Receiver of the assets of the Society and of the

assets of the long term insurance business carried on by the Society in the

United Kingdom, Gibraltar and Luxembourg;

and that the Court has appointed the Receiver of the assets of the

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1996 AUGUST 23 196
BUSINESS ROUNDUP
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Threat to the British pub draws nearer Moral panic over tobacco Motives behind the Bundesbank move

What ales Brussels?

TODAY — please let it be today, yet more delay would be too much to bear — Allied Domecq and Bass will finally announce the £200 million sale of Carlsberg-Tetley, the brewer. One of the largely unnoticed results will be to shift 6 per cent of Britain's 61,000 pubs out of the tied estate network.

But even then almost one pub in five will be owned by the three big brewers — this in addition to the 80 per cent plus of brewing capacity they will also own. The tie is, according to taste, an integral part of the British way of drinking or a feudal relic that stifles consumer choice.

Brussels thinks the latter, but the Eurocrats have never been keen on the British pub. In October, Commissioner Karel van Miert publishes his Green Paper on European competition issues. This has missed even more deadlines than Carlsberg-Tetley, but its eventual appearance will allow the Commission to start to look at whether the British pub as it exists now should be allowed to continue.

The tied system, as operated here, is, strictly speaking, illegal under the Treaty of Rome, which bans vertical integration between producers and retailers. But then so are a lot of things. Similar integration is plentiful elsewhere, in financial services or in the electricity industry, say.

Ties on the Continent tend to be financial, brewer granting a publican a loan in return for taking his beer, rather than property-based, as here. They are no less powerful — try getting a glass of anything other than Bitburg lager anywhere near that Rheinland town. The block exemption to the Treaty granted to our brewers comes up for renewal at the end of 1997, but the industry, steel-eyed in its vigilance against Euro-interference, has already lobbied Brussels.

They say, probably correctly, that any ban would hit smaller regional brewers hardest because four fifths of their production goes to their tied estate, as opposed to just 20 per cent from what will be the Big Three: Bass/Carlsberg, Tetley, Scottish Courage and Whitebread. The chances of Brussels refusing to renew the exemption are probably worse than a full implementation, on deadline, of Maastricht — that is, pretty slim. But Brussels is already heading for a collision with Britain over beer, having recently given 40 days' notice before taking us

to court over the provision of guest beers. The EC says, bizarrely, that Britain is discriminating against foreign lager, as if there was any difficulty in getting hold of the stuff. Again, it will probably come to nothing, but it is an indication of how the wind is blowing in Brussels, and John Taylor, a trade minister, was on the defence again yesterday.

The ever-changing, ever-constant British pub is under no serious danger — yet. How many more decades of EC membership the tied system can survive is one of those imponderables littering the corridors of Brussels.

No smoke without ire

ONE should never forget that America was founded by immigrants fleeing religious freedom in favour of religious intolerance. It is also the only developed country within living memory to have banned alcohol. Hardly surprising, therefore, that something called the Association for Non-smokers' Rights is



gleefully celebrating the latest crackdown on tobacco in the US with forecasts that the weed will one day be on a par with cocaine and heroin. Smokers will become drug-addicted outcasts, the association claims. Shivering on street corners, desperate to feed their addiction, no doubt, so no change there from the scene outside the average office block in winter.

All this comes in the same week that a survey showed a record number of young Americans turning to hard drugs. The two may not be unconnected. The figures suggest that the steady decline in tobacco sales, down by a fifth over the past decade to a short 500 billion cigs a year, may have reached a

plateau. While older American smokers may give up, the habit is catching on among the young. As political commentators have recently discovered here, there is nothing like the demonisation of the product to give it chic appeal.

The actual measures against tobacco now contemplated are not going to do much to send sales into sharp reverse again. They involve limits on advertising and promotion, but no complete ban, and the abolition of cigarette vending machines and free samples. (Free samples? One is reminded of Tom Lehrer's Old Dope Peddler, who handed out the same to kids "because he knows full well! That today's young innocent faces! Will be tomorrow's clientele".)

The only certain way of limiting smoking is a complete ban. This would be politically and fiscally unacceptable, and the big tobacco companies know it, whatever the Association of Po-faced Indignation thinks. Mild obstacles placed in their way will not dissuade addicts. Neither is the rash of court cases likely to end in much serious damage to the companies. If you take this

view, every plunge for tobacco shares on the latest outbreak of moral panic represents a buying opportunity for investors.

Franco-Prussian alliance

IT WOULD be a huge mistake to assume that the Bundesbank would allow itself the luxury of altruism. And yet most commentators seeking to justify yesterday's aggressive cut in the repo rate assumed that the iron men of Frankfurt had softened out of pity for their distressed colleagues in Paris.

There is no doubt that the move was designed to bail out the troubled franc, make room for a desperately needed French interest rate cut and give Jacques Chirac a fighting chance of meeting the Maastricht deficit criteria without having used grapeshot on rioting mobs. But this does not rule out entirely justified German self-interest.

The Bundesbank knew that the repo cut was not risky. German inflation is subdued, money supply growth has eased

and the economy, although rebounding, is certainly not yet strong. Beyond that, a little bit more growth would suit Germany. It is not just France which is struggling to meet the Maastricht deficit criteria. Without a smart recovery Germany is likely to miss the target too.

More than any other consideration, the Bundesbank wants to keep the illusion of progress towards the single currency alive. Many of its number — Omar Issing, its chief economist, reputed to be among them — are deeply suspicious of a monetary union which would cede power to lesser central bankers. But any hint that EMU is collapsing would send the mark into the stratosphere. And even the Bundesbank cannot be seen to preside over such damage to the German economy.

Rat trap

SIR Clive Thompson is the latest boss to be seduced by the siren calls of the image merchants. Long unhappy with being thought of as a mere rat-catcher, his company is reborn as Rentokil Initial, which keeps rat-catching in there somewhere while trading on BET's best-known brands. Rather cumbersome, though; should one not logically shorten Rentokil Initial to the very much snappier R?

Rentokil rules out any large disposals of BET

By CLARE STEWART

RENTOKIL, the pest control and personnel services company, surprised the City yesterday when it revealed it was not planning to sell off major parts of BET, the rival business services group it bought earlier this year.

Announcing half-year results, Sir Clive Thompson, group chief executive, ruled out any such moves saying, "any disposals will be a refining of the portfolio as distinct from any major sale". He added that there had been approaches from a large number of potential buyers.

A first contribution from BET, acquired after a hostile £2 billion bid, propelled first-half results ahead at Rentokil. Turnover leapt 110 per cent to £842 million, while pre-tax profits rose 35.6 per cent to £134.5 million in the six months to June 30. Earnings per share rose 20.9 per cent to 7.87p, while the dividend increased 20.3 per cent to 1.48p. Rentokil shares rose 10p to 419p.

Sir Clive reiterated the company's objective of achieving annual growth of 20 per cent in profits and earnings.

Stripping out the two-month contribution from BET, Rentokil pre-tax profits edged over the 20 per cent target with a 20.4 per cent to £119.4 million, on turnover ahead 24.1 per cent to £497.7 million. The slowest growth was



Sir Clive Thompson of the renamed Rentokil Initial

seen in the UK where Rentokil profits rose 15 per cent to £48.3 million. The fast-growing Asia Pacific and African businesses lifted profits to £27 million, a rise of nearly 32 per cent. The acquisition of BET

translated Rentokil's net cash of £96 million at June 1995 to net debt of £589.1 million. BET businesses had been cashflow negative for the past three years, Christopher Pearce, finance director, said. "We are

concentrating hard on now improving the cash generation of these businesses."

Incorporating BET's 50 businesses into the Rentokil group cost £2.5 million in the first two months. The full cost may be about £20 million, some of which will impact on the second half, one analyst said.

Sir Clive also announced that the enlarged group is to be renamed Rentokil Initial, "reflecting the company's plans to develop two international brands". Initial, acquired with BET, spans catering to hospital services in the UK and overseas.

Integration of BET has already prompted the departure of all its divisional directors and John Clark, chief executive. Mr Clark is pursuing his claim for compensation of £3.3 million and is due to bring his case before the High Court on October 7.

Closure of BET's two London offices has led to the loss of 99 jobs and, Sir Clive said, will add up to annual savings of £20 million. Further job losses are expected, but Sir Clive said the numbers will be low.

Nigel Udey, an analyst at Greig Middleton, is forecasting full-year profits of £322 million and a dividend of 5.10p.

Pennington, page 27
Tempus, page 28

Dockyards setback for Weir

WEIR, the engineering group, returned lacklustre first-half results, but insisted that strong trading in the second half would take it to record profits by the year-end (Fraser Nelson writes).

Pre-tax profits for the six months to June 28 fell 4.8 per cent to £19.2 million, which the company blamed on a £3.5 million drop from its dockyards at Devonport and Strachan and Henshaw. They were hit by disruptions from extensive refurbishment. The setbacks delayed the start of its submarine refitting contracts, pushing its progress milestone payment into 1997.

Earnings fell 0.5p to 6.8p. The interim dividend rises from 2.2p to 2.31p. It will be paid on November 8.

Tempus, page 28

News International profits advance 25%

By GEORGE SIVELL

NEWS INTERNATIONAL, owner of The Times, yesterday reported a 25 per cent increase in operating profit to £153.1 million for the year to the end of June on sales up from £841.3 million to £1,007.1 million.

Leslie Hinton, executive chairman of News International, said: "These excellent results have been achieved in an environment of fierce competition and rapidly escalating raw material costs."

He added: "Our significant investments in bold marketing strategies are continuing to give strong circulation growth and improved market shares. We look forward to the next financial year with confidence."

At the pre-tax level, profits fell from £778.7 million to £415.9 million but the previous

year included the one-off gain from the British Sky Broadcasting flotation.

On July 26, holders of News International special dividend shares approved proposals for The News Corporation, the parent company, to acquire all of the outstanding special dividend shares in exchange for News Corp preferred shares. The proposals are expected to become effective on 6 September.

The new preferred shares will rank for the final dividend for the year declared by News Corp. The same proposals provide for News International preference shareholders to be paid a final dividend together with payment of the capital sums due from News Corp.

Earlier yesterday News Corp revealed a 10 per cent rise in revenues, to \$9.9 billion, in the year to June 30, although profits after tax before abnormal items fell 4 per cent to \$953 million and earnings per share fell 12 per cent to \$1.20.

Total operating profits slipped from \$1,226 million to \$1,203 million in spite of a rise in costs of \$300 million across the group caused by higher paper prices. Operating profits after tax and abnormal items fell from \$1,008 million to \$770 million, or from \$1.36 to \$0.96 per ADR.

A final unfranked News Corp dividend (not grossed up for tax purposes) is payable on October 15.

The annual ordinary dividend per ADR is maintained at \$0.12 and the annual preferred dividend is maintained at \$0.30.

Card rivals join to secure future

By FRASER NELSON

THE four-year rivalry between Cardcast and Card Clear finally ended yesterday when the two credit card security companies, both quoted on the Alternative Investment Market, agreed to merge. The paper deal values Cardcast at £15.4 million.

In a five-for-two share swap, Cardcast share is being valued at 95p, a 14 per cent premium to the price when the bid talks began on August 8. Card Clear shares fell 2p to 36p. Cardcast's were unchanged, at 86p.

The chairman of Cardcast is Nigel Whitaker, formerly a director of Kingfisher, the retail group that encompasses Woolworths and Comet. If the merger goes ahead, Mr Whitaker will become chairman of the enlarged Card Clear.

While both companies offer the same list of stolen credit cards, they have complementary client bases, with Cardcast mainly serving su-

permarkets and Card Clear concentrating on petrol stations. The two said that joining forces would give them more muscle to focus on overseas expansion.

Shares in the two companies have seen-sawed since Cardcast joined AIM in April, with investors betting that only one would triumph.



Whittaker: chairman

August car sales disappoint dealers

By FRASER NELSON

THE predicted August boom in new car sales has failed to materialise, according to Evans Halshaw and Quicks Group, the auto distribution companies, which both reported interim results yesterday.

Although volumes of new car sales were ahead of last year's, both companies said that the increase was only marginal and added that the squeeze on margins had continued throughout the month.

Total August sales are expected to be 3 per cent volume ahead of last time, as dealers nurse margins instead of going for manufacturers' bonus sales targets.

In the six months to June 30, both companies increased the volumes of new car sales by 2 per cent, against a sector increase of 5.1 per cent. Evans Halshaw attributed this to smaller manufacturers, who had increased their market share at the expense of the

major players. Quicks was ahead on its used car volumes, which jumped 34 per cent. After generating sales of £34.9 million in its high-margin spare parts division, 24 per cent more than last time, Quicks saw its pre-tax profit rise by 18 per cent, to £2.79 million.

Evans Halshaw was hit by poor sales of Ford, Rover and Vauxhall, and its pre-tax profits fell from £8.2 million to £7.3 million.

Closing five of its smaller dealerships cost £300,000 over the half year. The group said that further closure costs would feature in its second half, but promised that its final dividend would be protected.

Evans Halshaw is paying a maintained interim dividend of 5.5p on October 16, from earnings of 15.2p, down from 17.1p. Quicks is paying 2.75p (2.5p) on November 8, from earnings up by 1.5p, to 7.8p.

Classic FM overture by GWR

CLASSIC FM, the national broadcaster of classical music, is to be taken over by GWR, the Bristol-based radio group, in a deal expected to be announced today (Clare Stewart writes). GWR already has 17 per cent and is believed to be acquiring the 33 per cent stake of Time Warner, the US media group, lifting its stake to 50 per cent. It is suggested GWR would look to acquire further holdings from other smaller shareholders, which include The Daily Mail & General Trust.

John Spearman, Classic FM's chief executive, is expected to remain with the company he has led since its formation. In May he announced plans to move posts and become deputy chairman this summer to concentrate on developing Classic's overseas activities.

Classic FM began broadcasting in September 1992 and attracts 4.6 million listeners weekly. It has expanded overseas with the launch of a sister station in Holland, interests in Sweden and Finland and a franchise agreement with Sony in the US. Last year it showed profits of £281,000. Although speculation has sug-

gested Classic FM intended to float on the stock market, its management have always denied such an intention. Take-over by GWR would make available financial resources to develop Classic FM's UK and international activities.

GWR, one of the largest commercial radio groups in the UK, announced interim pre-tax profits of £3.1 million in June. UK interests include a 31 per cent stake in London News Radio, and ownership of Chiltern Radio and East Anglian Radio.

LLOYD'S

LLOYD'S OF LONDON

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO LLOYD'S NAMES

LLOYD'S SETTLEMENT OFFER

The closing date for the offer is **ONLY 3 working days away.**

If you intend **ACCEPTING** your settlement offer, you **MUST** return your form of acceptance **NOW.**

All forms **MUST** be returned by noon on Wednesday 28 August.

FAX YOUR ACCEPTANCE FORM TODAY TO:
01634 392002.

DO NOT RISK LOSING THE BENEFITS OF THE OFFER.

STOCK MARKET

OLIVER AUGUST

German rate cut boosts building materials sector

THE FT-SE 100 index was driven to a fresh high of 3,991.1 by a wave of statistical and interest rate changes across Europe yesterday.

The Bundesbank's decision to reduce its repo rate by 30 basis points to 3 per cent was followed by the French, who cut the equivalent intervention rate to 3.35 per cent from 3.55 per cent.

The most direct beneficiary of these cuts was the building materials sector. Companies like Redland and RMC, which are exposed to the German economy, rose strongly on the move to make borrowing cheaper for German and French house-builders. RMC rose from £10.52 to £10.75 and Redland was lifted from 435p to 450p.

Andrew Malrose, European construction analyst at Paribas Capital Markets, warned investors that such a small cut will not reverse an expected decline in the sector over the next three to four years. Tight public purse ahead of the move to a single currency are squeezing the sector, he said.

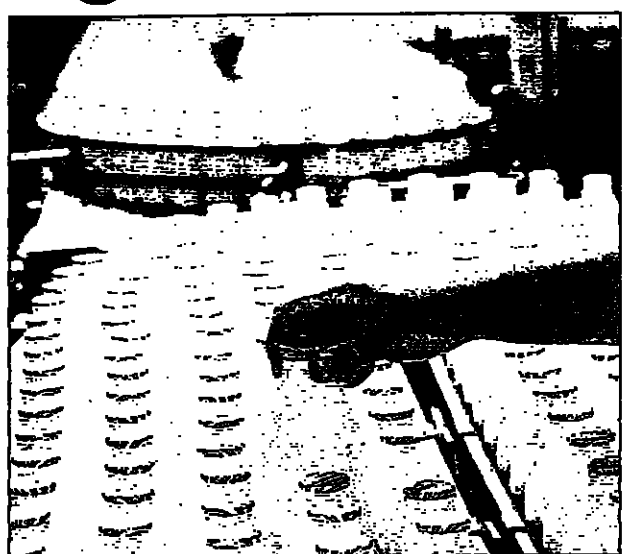
On top of the two rate cuts the CBI published a survey of the latest industrial trends, which painted a positive picture in slow trading BOC rose 3p to 87p, ICI from 782p to 792p, Inspec closed at 197, up 3p, and Laporte rose 2p to 744p.

The Prudential led equities higher with a rise of 17p to 442p in anticipation of an early flotation of its Mercantile and General subsidiary, which is expected to raise over £1.3 billion. Other insurance issues pushed ahead in support. Britannic was up 7p to 722p, Legal & General gained 3p to 730p, and Commercial Union made up 8p to 601p.

GrandMet eased another 1p to 474p after a fall of 21p the previous day. Profit-taking was thought to account for the fall after GrandMet reached record highs.

The positive mood of the market remained. Goldman Sachs said: "GrandMet pays close attention to return on capital and is the most consumer-oriented of the spirits companies in our universe. It remains our favoured company in the spirits sector."

Interim results from Rentokil won a warm welcome from market followers, rising 10p to 419p. The pest control and security company said that it is sticking with its



Foods were healthy. Unigate rising 7p and Northern 5p

20 per cent growth target, which it has met for the past 14 years.

Fourth Ports at 563p fell 2p and the Go-Ahead Group at 303p fell 1p. Mersey Docks stabilised at 404p after Wednesday's plunge on the downgrading of analysts' full-year forecasts. Railtrack also closed unchanged at 248p after earlier rumours of a US stock-

Risk-takers with exotic tastes may want to turn their attention to RTZ, the mining group. In a statement to the Stock Exchange about its diamond programme, RTZ said it is exploring an area of unknown size and economic potential. The shares went up from 966p to 976p.

building exercise subsidised. A disappointing interim setback at Dawson Group wiped off 41p from the share price to 125p.

British Airways remained on the move after Wednesday's fall and rose from 524p to 533p.

The resolution of the problems in the milk industry, although not signed and sealed yet, had an impact on

food companies for a second day running. Unigate rose from 432p to 439p and Northern Foods improved 5p to 210p.

Following the Milk Marque pricing changes the foods sector was helped by yesterday's news that Lord Rayleigh's Dairies, which controlled 2 per cent of the milk market, have been placed in receivership. The rest of the

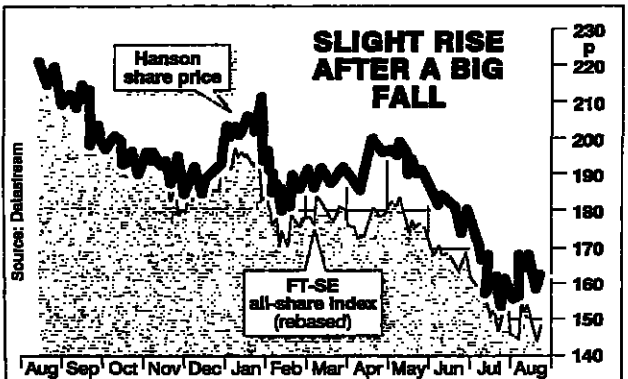
sector generally followed suit. Tate & Lyle were up from 460p to 470p. United Biscuits rose 2p to 211p and Hillsdown gained 4p to 191p.

Hillsdown had been praised in a food review by BZW.

Hanson was up from 158p to 162p after modest buyer interest, but a return to previous heights is still a long way off. Elsewhere in the diversified industrials sector

the market remained. Goldman Sachs said: "GrandMet pays close attention to return on capital and is the most consumer-oriented of the spirits companies in our universe. It remains our favoured company in the spirits sector."

Interim results from Rentokil won a warm welcome from market followers, rising 10p to 419p. The pest control and security company said that it is sticking with its



Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Berisford fell from 173p to 160p as a result of an industrial dispute. The unionised workforce at the Magnet Kitchen factory in Darlington had voted for immediate strike action. The Magnet management has said that it is "available and willing" to continue discussions.

Better than expected profits and a confident statement lifted the Weir Group 18p to 234p.

Good news is expected from next Wednesday's WH Smith interim results. Shares were up 11p at 532p.

The News Corporation, parent company of The Times, published final results. The shares slipped from 331p to 324p. Pearson also fell, from 666p to 663p, after an extraordinary meeting approved the purchase of a further 30 per cent stake in Reedels, the Spanish newspaper group. Pearson now holds 95 per cent of the shares.

FKI's results for the first four months of the new year lifted the shares 4p to 187p. A growing recovery in the North American market since last year was seen as a reason to be cheerful at the engineering company's offices. A number of prospective acquisitions are also said to be under active discussion.

Eriasson announced the signing of a new deal with The Telephone & Telecommunications for the provision of hardware for the supplies outside Bangkok. Valued at \$60 million, the contract also includes training. Eriasson's share price remained at 150p nevertheless.

GLT-EDGED: Thanks to the Bundesbank rate cut gifts ended with a half-point gain. September contracts settled at £107.29, up 14.2, having peaked at £108.07.

Some salesmen suggested that the unexpectedly large cut signalled that this may be the last one for a while. "We have seen people saying that if there was a decent rally on that cut, look to sell again," one said.

The December future closed ten basis points higher at 94.30, while the March 1997 contract put on 0.12 to 94.09.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street rebounded on news of the sharp reduction in a key German interest rate and helped by technology sector gains. By midday the Dow Jones Industrial average was 23.67 points ahead at 5,713.49.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5713.49 (+23.67)
S&P Composite 667.79 (+2.72)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 21,363.24 (+88.22)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 11,478.77 (+42.27)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 564.95 (+5.47)

Sydney:
ASX 2274.6 (+11.4)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2587.26 (+15.52)

Singapore:
Straits 2162.73 (+7.13)

Brussels:
General 9900.05 (+67.97)

Paris:
CAC-40 2017.76 (+17.12)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 778.10 (+7.30)

London:
FT 30 2821.4 (+13.4)
FT 100 3891.1 (+19.8)
FT-SE Mid 250 4402.5 (+15.1)
FT-SE 250 4520.3 (+15.1)
FT-SE Europe 100 1663.1 (+9.12)
FT A All-Share 1622.49 (+4.30)
FT Non Financials 2025.39 (+7.97)
FT Food Index 113.6 (+0.02)
FT Govt Sec 93.26 (+0.12)

Bargains 2894
SEAQ Volume 638,000
US\$ (Discount) 20.81 (+0.02)
US\$ 1.5485 (+0.0002)
German Mark 2.3102 (+0.0018)
Exchange Index 65.1 (+0.48)
Bank of England official close (Horn)
ECU 1.2134
LSE 1524.70 (2.78) Jan 1997-100
NPA 1519.70 (2.58) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

AND International 94 + 5
Allyzine 43
Amer Opps 100
Barclay Healthcare 66
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Dentmaster Hldgs 4
Egypt Trust 678
Electronic Retailing 218
Fayreway 48
Gabriel Trust (16) 18
Gall Thomson Env 61
HIT Entertainment 602
Hambro Smir As 25
Horse Gown 100
Life Numbers 12
Life Numbers Wts 5
Lion & Edin Pub 15
SCI Entertainment 163
Schroder Em C 371
Schroder Em C Ws 36
Schroder Em C 91
Selector 68
Somerville (145) 159 + 1
Walker, Crisp Widdie 71
West 175 Enterprises 130

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Jerome & Sons n/p (68) 2
Scott Power n/p (250) 53
Shakespeare n/p (125) 15

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:
Acom Comp 234p (+12p)
Cortice 310p (+15p)
Liberty 425p (+15p)
Bowthorpe 434p (+15p)
Radland 452p (+15p)
Cassidy 522p (+13p)
Rentokil 419p (+10p)
RMC Gp 1075p (+23p)
WH Smith 532p (+11p)
BSkyB 557p (+10p)

FALLS:
Berisford Int 160p (-13p)
CPL Aromas 288p (-17p)
Business Post 400p (-17p)
Danke Bk Sys 440p (-13p)
Henlys 639p (-10p)
Broken Hill 692p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS

Labour pains

THE stock market had almost forgotten about strikes. Once upon a time, labour relations were an issue for investors — or, to be precise, where the issue was raised, investors tended to be absent. News, yesterday, that a Berisford plant was threatened with shutdown felt like a blast of cold air from the past.

Or is it a harbinger of the future? The threatened strike at the Magnet kitchens plant in Darlington is interesting because it suggests that some workers may be feeling more confident. The dispute centres on an agreement struck in 1993 capping hourly pay. The deal was struck when pay was higher than local rates, and the unions now want it scrapped.

Working days lost in strikes fell slowly throughout the 1980s, but remained in millions to 1990. The most significant reduction was

during the recession. Thatcherite employment legislation seemed to have less effect on the power of unions than a relentless round of redundancies: over the five years to 1995, lost working hours fell from 761,000 to 415,000.

The question is whether the cowed British worker is beginning to feel more confident. Employment deserts remain across Britain, but, overall, unemployment is falling and it is logical to assume that a reduced supply of surplus labour will encourage workers to demand more and management to settle for a higher hourly rate. However, for managers, there are strong pressures not to concede a per cent here or there. The ability of manufacturers to automatically pass on cost increases to retailers has disappeared and a loss of competitive edge is not easily won back. We could be in for more strikes.

Rentokil

IN A TEDIOUS re-run of this year's bid battle, Rentokil's chief executive delivered a verbal demolition of the management culture of the management culture of the company's former bosses. The purpose was to explain how loose financial controls were to be replaced with the single-minded culture of Rentokil. But, with the BET board and 99 staff long gone, Rentokil has cleaned BET of its harmful influences. The question is how quickly the junior management can be fitted into Rentokil's straitjackets.

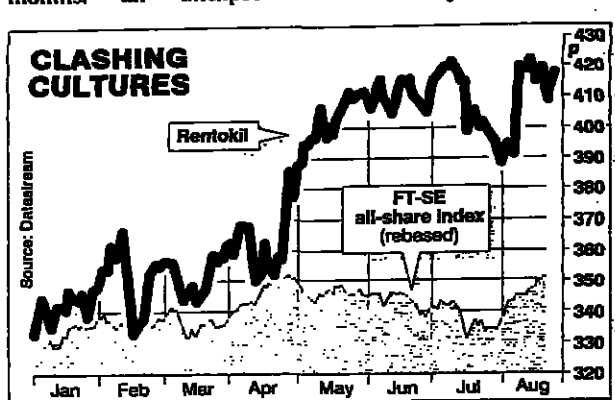
Unfortunately, Rentokil raised a few doubts yesterday on its own strategic direction. The retention of BET's plant hire business conveniently protects Rentokil from the earnings dilution that would result from a sale. But plant hire is

CLASHING CULTURES

capital intensive and Rentokil needs to stem BET's heavy cash outflow. While Rentokil drew our attention to the first half, it seems to have paid less attention to the pennies in its own till. The company saw an extra £17 million disappear into working capital over six months, an unexpected

surge, only partly explained by slow-moving cheques in the post.

BET will probably do the job: boosting earnings growth as Rentokil's core businesses slow down, but there is little reason to award huge premium ratings to cyclical businesses such as plant hire just because they are owned by Rentokil.



Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Goldsmiths

IF Goldsmiths does not join forces with Ernest Jones, the question must be how well it can do on its own. On the evidence of yesterday's half-year results, the high street jewellers business is doing well. For a company so affected by Christmas a small profit in the first half is highly respectable.

To make the figures truly sparkle, Goldsmiths needs to grow. It has only 3 per cent of the jewellery market while Signet's businesses, Ernest Jones and H Samuel, boast 18 per cent. Argos accounts for another 10 per cent.

Signet's well-documented torments have allowed Goldsmiths a chance to gain ground. Current expansion plans should take Goldsmiths to 165 branches within three years, snapping at the heels of Ernest Jones.

All this is to the detriment of the independents that still control the majority of the jewellery market. They tend

Weir Group

WEIR GROUP has the misfortune of having half of its business in pumps, a cut-throat market served by major companies in Europe, North America and Japan. Weir's competitors are often larger than itself and over the past couple of years have been selling the product at a loss in a desperate attempt to grab sales. As a result Weir Group has been earning rotten margins of less than 6 per cent, half the rate that one normally might expect from

a specialist engineering manufacturer.

The industry has seen some consolidation with the merger of the pump interests of Ingersoll Rand and Dresser, but Weir is a small player and its main hope is that years of losses will persuade rivals that the industry needs to reduce capacity rather than fight for market share. The company sees some sign of improvement, but better margins need to come from elsewhere.

Sadly, Weir has not been making a great deal of headway. Engineering Services only maintained its return on sales during the half year and the Devonport Dockyard, where Weir has a quarter share alongside BICC and Brown & Root, the US engineers, suffered a profits slide.

The best hope is an acquisition, preferably in valves, its most successful division. There are signs that opportunities are emerging.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

COMMODITIES

COMMODITY EXCHANGE
Sep 1014-1015 Dec 1091-1088
Nov 1032-1033 Jan 1101-1100
Mar 1044-1043 May 1110-1109
Jul 1056-1054 Sep 1115-1110
Nov 1067-1066 Jan 1126-1125
Mar 1078-1077 May 1137-1136
Jul 1089-1088 Sep 1148-1147
Nov 1100-1099 Jan 1159-1158
Mar 1111-1110 May 1170-1169
Jul 1122-1121 Sep 1181-1180
Nov 1192-1191 Jan 1203-1202
Mar 1214-1213 May 1225-1224
Jul 1236-1235 Sep 1247-1246
Nov 1258-1257 Jan 1269-1268
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Mar 1630-1629 May 1641-1640
Jul 1652-1651 Sep 1663-1662
Nov 1684-1683 Jan 1695-1694
Mar 1706-1705 May 1717-1716
Jul 1728-1727 Sep 1739-1738
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Jul 1804-1803 Sep 1815-1814
Nov 1836-1835 Jan 1847-1846
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Jul 1880-1879 Sep 1891-1890
Nov 1902-1901 Jan 1913-1912
Mar 1924-1923 May 1935-1934
Jul 1946-1945 Sep 1957-1956
Nov 1968-1967 Jan 1979-1978
Mar 1990-1989 May 2001-2000
Jul 2012-2011 Sep 2023-2022
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Mar 4682-4681 May 4693-4692
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Mar 4854-4853 May 4865-4864
Jul 4876-4875 Sep 4887-4886
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Jul 5994-5993 Sep 6005-6004
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Mar 6298

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Smoke signals in the scares

PANIC in the cigarette market yesterday, as another court case neared its end and President Clinton was expected to classify nicotine as a drug, reminded one old tobacco analyst of the money his company made in previous health scares.

Every time, shares in cigarette companies plunged on the expectation of a squeeze on profitability. But it never arrived, the tobacco companies adjusted the machines to put a strand or two less in each cigarette.

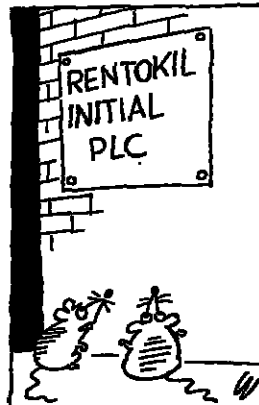
Profits were maintained, so were dividends and shares learnt to live with bad news. Unfortunately, that all changed with greater regulation of the content of cigarettes making it harder for investment houses today to make a profit.

Canning's move

BIG changes at Burson Marsteller, the PR firm, where Alison Canning, chief executive of the London office, is leaving after 13 years to pursue new interests. Canning, 37, has held the top post for the past two years. Burson is restructuring globally into specialist practice groups, and her job has disappeared. Canning, who restructured the London office, and set up and ran Cohn & Wolfe, Burson's subsidiary, leaves at the end of next month.

Full voice

FORM an orderly queue, please, for your complimentary copy of the latest compact disc from the Bayer Made Voice Choir. The German chemicals company is making available the CD, which was recorded during the first tour of Britain this year by the choir. The German accents on the rendition of *Land of Hope and Glory* may jar a little, but heaven knows what England football supporters will make of *You'll Never Walk Alone*...



"I can still smell a rat catcher"

Offside

PETER HILL-WOOD, the merchant banker who chairs Arsenal Football Club, attempted to field questions about the recent sacking of manager Bruce Rioch and Arsenal's inability to name a replacement. Mr Hill-Wood described the imminent appointment of Frenchman Arsène Wenger as "one of the year's worst kept secrets", but said Arsenal could not make a formal announcement because it had given an undertaking not to do so. "Who have you given the undertaking to?" asked a shareholder. "Mr Wenger," was Mr Hill-Wood's world weary reply.

Bartlett drive

A SORRY tale reaches us from Ford Open Prison in Sussex, where inmates include John Bartlett, a former racing driver. Bartlett, 40, claimed on his insurance after a riding accident ruined his career, but the affair turned nasty, and he was jailed for six years for defrauding insurers. Friends and family have launched a campaign, protesting his innocence. Bumper stickers, have begun circulating, and The Book Guild is considering publishing his story. We have not heard the last of him.

Alasdair Murray says the industry's apparent aura of invincibility is no more

Grady Carter cuts an unlikely figure as the man who may go down in history for felling one of the world's oldest and most powerful industries. Mr Carter, a 66-year-old retired air traffic controller, has passed most of his life in the happy obscurity of Orange Park, Florida. Like many of his generation he smoked — enjoying his favourite brand of filterless Lucky Strikes for most of his adult life — before he contracted lung cancer in 1992.

Mr Carter and his wife, Millie, decided to seek compensation for his illness, which resulted in him losing part of a lung, from Brown and Williamson, an American tobacco company owned by BAT.

The omens were hardly good for Mr Carter even though his lawyer, Norwood Wilner, had cut his teeth winning millions of dollars of compensation from asbestos companies. But the tobacco industry was different: it had faced hundreds of damages cases in the past 30 years and had never lost a single case.

But to everyone's surprise, a jury found in favour of Mr Carter and awarded him and his wife a total of \$750,000 in damages. Paying up is unlikely to prove a problem for BAT. The sum is small change for a company that made total profits of £2.4 billion last year, including £1.6 billion in its tobacco division, and which spends £50 million a year on fighting cases such as these.

Nor did Mr Carter establish a legal precedent that could be employed in hundreds of similar cases to reach favourable settlements. But the case has brought to an end the industry's apparent aura of invincibility — just as it is facing an escalating battle to fend off punitive regulation on other fronts.

It is perhaps premature to pronounce the death of the tobacco industry. Smoking remains one of the world's favourite addictions — or "habits" as the industry prefers to term it.

An estimated 15 billion cigarettes are smoked every day, including more than a billion a day in America, one of the many Western markets regarded as being in long-term decline. Philip Morris, the world's second largest cigarette company after the state-owned Chinese tobacco company, believes that the world market will grow 20 per cent by the end of the decade.

Morris, which owns the Marlboro brand, reckons that Western companies have bare-



About 15 billion cigarettes, including over a billion in the US, are smoked every day

ly scratched the surface of markets in the developing world. In China, for instance, just 10 per cent of the market is for Western cigarettes.

BAT, meanwhile, announced only yesterday that it was setting up a new company in India in alliance with ITC, its existing Indian partner, to help to sell its main export brands — 555 State Express and Lucky Strike.

The industry is also able to produce tobacco products with profit margins that make most other industries green with envy. Imperial Tobacco, which is about to floated off as part of the demerger of Hanson, makes an estimated margin of 45 per cent on brands such as

Embassy and John Player Special.

In the context of a world market that seems to offer a licence to print money, the battles in America become almost parochial. The industry rightly points out that it is long way from paying out any real damages. There have been few breakthroughs for the anti-smoking lobby in other Western markets, with about 300 cases in the UK recently denied the support of Legal Aid.

In America itself, recent cases have still been concluded mainly in favour of the industry. The Castano class action, a legal attempt to establish a nationwide precedent for dam-

ages, was dismissed in May. The decision by Liggett, the fifth largest tobacco company in the US, to settle two anti-smoking actions shocked the industry back in the spring. But the deal has since proved to be a damp squib, with a series of complex get-out clauses limiting its impact, and the market concluding that it was really only part of complex machinations by Bennett LeBow, Liggett's chairman, to take control and demerge RJR Nabisco, a rival group.

There is also a very real chance that the Carter case will be overturned when it goes to appeal, as happened with a similar case in New

Jersey in 1988. But the victory has given the anti-smoking lobby new hope. If a widow in Indiana succeeds in winning damages in the next few days for the death from lung cancer of her husband, there is a real possibility that the industry will face a torrent of new cases.

The tobacco companies are also facing a number of other legal challenges, including 13 states suing for the medical costs of treating smokers and a series of class action cases also being lodged at state level. There is a growing feeling that under huge legal pressure the industry will eventually have to concede some ground.

The tobacco company's predicament is compounded by the increasing legislative threat to smoking. Several states have already passed laws restricting smoking in public, while President Clinton is on the verge of accepting recommendations from the federal Food and Drug Administration to ban cigarette vending machines and further restrict advertising.

President Clinton enjoys the odd cigar, but smoking has been banned at the White House and he seems keen to make the habit a political issue.

The industry has responded by pouring serious money into the Republican Party's coffers — BAT has donated \$250,000 to the campaign of Bob Dole, the Republican contender for the presidency — but the politicisation of the debate only increases the likelihood that when anti-smokers have the political advantage further restrictions will be imposed.

At the same time, the leaking of documents suggesting that the industry has lied for 30 years about its understanding of the addictive qualities of nicotine has made the tobacco companies appear hypocritical and shabby. Just two years ago, senior executives in the industry testified to Congress under oath that they did not believe nicotine was addictive.

The companies can still argue that the hammering their share prices have taken in New York and London is simply "sentiment". Serious financial damage has not yet been inflicted on the industry and, even if cases continue to go against it, the companies' ability to bear huge costs should not be underestimated.

But America will always remain fundamental to the tobacco companies, in spite of the promise of new markets. The US is the home of the industry and its history and marketing image is reliant on this link. If Marlboro Man becomes ostracised in his home market, how easy will it be to sell smoking as a "cool", Western pursuit to consumers in the developing world?

Equally, will investors want to continue pumping money into companies that have become the pariahs of the corporate world? For all its insistence that nothing has been lost yet, the tobacco industry may yet come to hate the name of Grady Carter.

BUSINESS LETTERS

The development of Heathrow's Terminal 5 and competitive needs

From Mr Gordon Glass
Sir, Mrs Dunwoody's letter (Business Letters, August 20) in line with the Select Committee's report, demonstrates protectionism for both British Airways and UK aviation.

Any development of public services needs to be based instead on a close examination of the ethical, public safety and environmental consequences: increasingly important matters seemingly often overlooked in the UK transport sector.

Unfortunately, the Select Committee's report lacked this examination of the effects on Heathrow, particularly regarding the need to increase slots and traffic in order to "offer effective competition", and pre-empted the more informed conclusions of the Terminal 5 inquiry in these matters.

The committee has heard evidence from BAA as to the "significant environmental disadvantages" (ie unlikely implementation) of the measures upon which the committee relies for effective competition.

I am sure British Airways will be very happy. As the Select Committee implied in a previous report, a proper UK aviation policy and strategy is long overdue!

Yours faithfully,
GORDON GLASS
(Director), 2020 Vision Ltd,
PO Box 1967, Bath.

From the Chairman of Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise
Sir, It is disappointing that Gwyneth Dunwoody has swallowed the airlines' argument that improving competi-

tion in the aviation market requires an increase in slots at Heathrow to accommodate new services. She advocates consideration of the introduction of "mixed mode" at Heathrow to allow a further intensification of air traffic. This proposal (the abandonment of runway alternation) would mean consigning hundreds of thousands of residents living around Heathrow to unending aircraft noise from 4am to midnight, day in day out. Even BAA opposes the introduction of mixed mode, since it knows the airport has to continue living with its neighbours.

In fact, as we showed in our evidence to the Transport Select Committee, the best way to ensure competition at Heathrow is to introduce an auction for the slots which are currently available. Immensely valuable Heathrow slots are given away for nothing, which explains the pressure from airlines to increase their number. Airlines would willingly pay substantial sums for the right to land at Heathrow. Slot auctions would provide a source of additional public revenue, which we estimate at between £250 million and £500 million a year. This would not be a windfall tax, since airlines would simply be paying what they willingly offered while mindful of their need to operate profitably. Perhaps Mrs Dunwoody should have a talk with Gordon Brown?

DERMOT COX,
Chairman, HACAN,
PO Box 339, Richmond,
Surrey.

Lower paid are real losers from tobacco tax

From Dr B S Smith
Sir, Graham Searjeant (August 12) comes close to accepting that the tobacco industry will ultimately expire. In the meantime he is prepared to act as an apologist.

He refers to the dependence of Governments upon tobacco as a source of revenue — to treat victims of tobacco-related diseases.

Unfortunately, at least in developed countries, the main users of tobacco are the lowest income, least well educated members of society. In Britain, smoking families in the lowest 10 per cent of income lost 27 per cent of their income in tobacco tax (The Times, July 21 1995). Proper nutrition, heating and recreation suffer. There are fairer ways of raising tax, with the burden borne equitably by all income groups. Moreover, any country which is a net importer of tobacco leaf or finished products experiences a negative effect on the balance of payments — but still has to pay for avoidable ill-health.

Suppression of tobacco usage should not be compared with American 1920's prohibition. Alcohol is used sensibly by the majority of the population. Used in this way

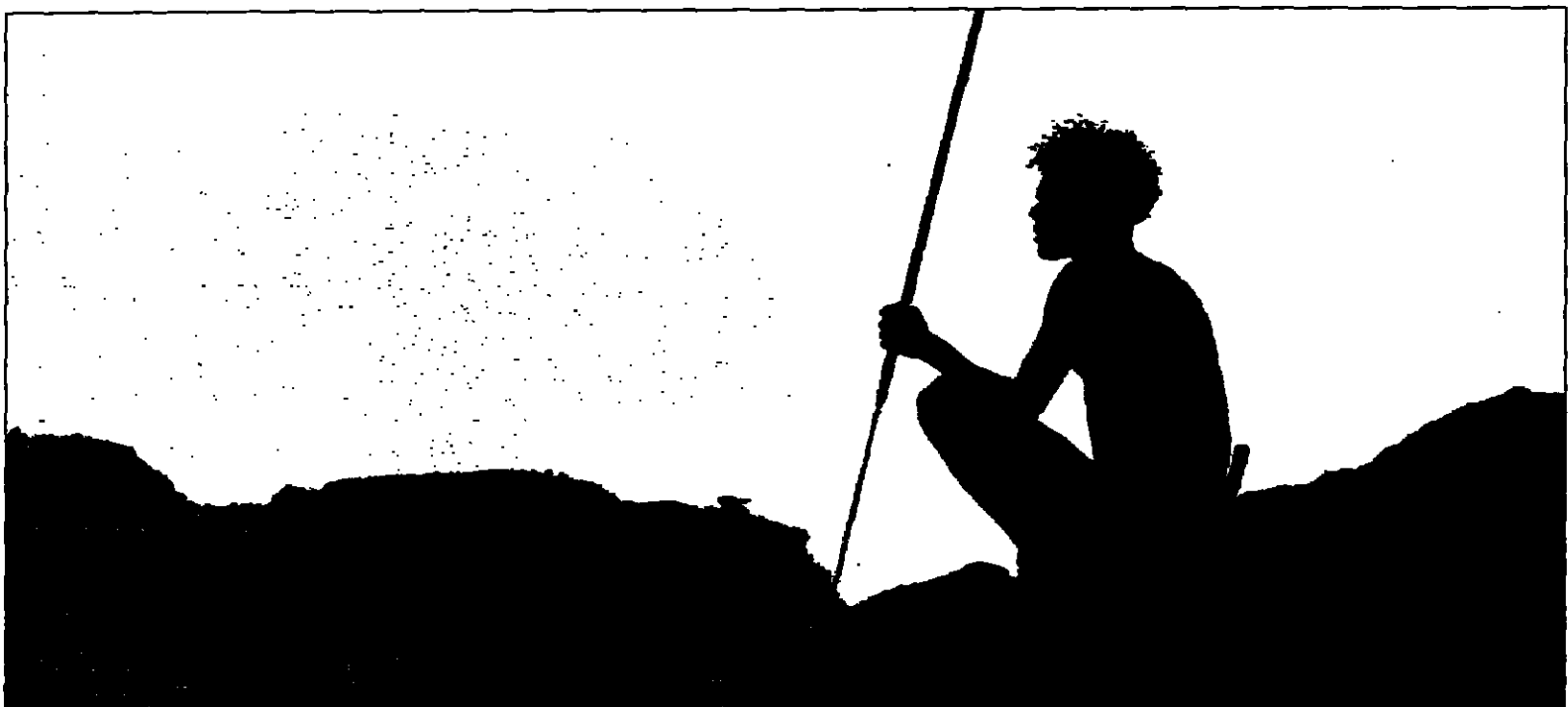
it has life-enhancing qualities, both social and medical (The Times, August 14). Whilst the argument for alcohol prohibition is not sustainable, tobacco has overwhelmingly negative attributes. Tobacco can fairly be compared with illicit, addictive drugs, where severe restriction or prohibition is acceptable.

There is good evidence to suggest that young people denied tobacco will turn to other dangerous drugs. Teenage smoking is increasing. There is no reciprocal reduction in drug abuse — rather the reverse.

As to "road rage" prevention. Smokers have a higher rate of driving accidents. It may be simply that they are inherent risk-takers; however, some may experience difficulty in controlling their vehicle whilst simultaneously manipulating a cigarette or pipe. Perhaps also the relaxed dream-like state implied by a former television (Hamlet) cigar advertisements may be good for avoiding "road rage" but may be bad for concentration.

Yours faithfully,
DR B S SMITH,
Consultant physician,
Sandwell Healthcare,
Lyndon, West Bromwich.

Bleak prospects for gold down under



The spectre of higher production costs because of resolving land title claims by Aboriginal groups is compounding the industry's woes

The lack of big new discovery is troubling the industry and investors, says Rachel Bridge

Almost by definition gold miners are an optimistic bunch and indeed the entire gold mining industry is steeped in tales of fortunes made and lost on the turn of a shovel. Right now, however, the mood in the bars of Australia's outback mining towns is decidedly nervous.

For after several years of phenomenal growth, the lack of a spectacular new discovery has left Australia's gold industry wondering if the bubble could be about to burst.

Growth has been rapid. Ten years ago the Australian gold sector was valued at \$700 million (£350 million). Today, it is worth \$18 billion and gold is the country's second largest export. Australia now ranks number three in the world production stakes behind South Africa and the US, with production next year expected to reach about 260 tonnes of pure gold.

The growing fear among investors, however, is that that may be as good as it gets. David Russell, mining analyst with Saw James Capel, says: "Enormous sums of money are being spent on exploration with very little to show for it." What's more, the discoveries that have been made have been mainly extensions to existing deposits. Another analyst admits: "There hasn't been an important discovery for the last 12 months and we really need something good to keep the momentum up and the excitement level high."

Compounding the industry's woes is the spectre of a surge in production costs because of the cost — and time — of resolving native title land claims by Aboriginal groups. The Native Title Act 1992 put in place for the first time laws protecting the land rights of Aboriginals and gave local groups the right to negotiate with mining companies.

While a big step forward for relations with the Aboriginal community, the Act nevertheless will require a major adjustment by the mining industry over next few years in the way it operates. As Colin Barnett, Western Australia's Resources Minister, points out: "Australia in the 1990s is coming to grips with native title and the needs of indigenous people that America and other countries came to terms with a hundred years ago. It is not going to go away."

It has inevitably cast a big cloud of uncertainty. Mr Russell says: "It is really starting to hurt the industry because the ability to translate exploration into production is now questionable. It is a real problem and it is very difficult to dismiss. It is reducing mining interest in areas where a company knows it will be subjected to native title claims."

Industry players point with a shudder to the experience of RTZ's Century Zinc mine. The group was forced to put the development on hold after having spent \$200 million because of a row over title. One bright spot for the industry is that the Government did not go ahead with its plan to scrap the diesel fuel rebate, which was introduced as compensation for excise duty imposed to pay for public roads that the mining industry did not use.

Companies had feared that scrapping the rebate would increase costs by \$40 an ounce on the current \$490 an ounce.

The prospect of escalating production costs at home has prompted a growing exodus of Australian gold companies seeking alternative exploration projects overseas. And it is not just the largest companies that are looking offshore — a growing number of junior exploration companies are joining them too.

Over the past few months, for example, Resolute Samantha has begun two exploration projects in Africa. Golden Shamrock Mines has started exploring in Ghana. Meekatharra Minerals in Indonesia and Nuigini Mining in Chile.

One analyst says: "In previous years at the gold conference in Kalgoolie it was considered very bad form to discuss offshore projects — it was seen as a sign of bad faith. But this year it was noticeable that they were being openly discussed."

Once overseas, companies are finding that they can get bigger chunks of land at a cheaper price than they can at home, while for the junior companies Canada and North America are proving a great source of investment funds.

None of which has left the outlook for the Australian industry looking especially self-confident.

As one analyst explains: "Everything has slowed down in Australia. You can't explore as quickly or as efficiently as you could and the ground is fairly well tied up. The reality is, while it is still growing, it is becoming a mature industry."

Others, however, argue that the next spectacular gold discovery is all it will take to bring everyone racing home to get the party going again.

Equities close at record high

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
131	131	131	Alco. Bever.	131	0	0	131
132	132	132	Alco. Bever.	132	0	0	132
133	133	133	Alco. Bever.	133	0	0	133
134	134	134	Alco. Bever.	134	0	0	134
135	135	135	Alco. Bever.	135	0	0	135
136	136	136	Alco. Bever.	136	0	0	136
137	137	137	Alco. Bever.	137	0	0	137
138	138	138	Alco. Bever.	138	0	0	138
139	139	139	Alco. Bever.	139	0	0	139
140	140	140	Alco. Bever.	140	0	0	140

BANKS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
141	141	141	Bank	141	0	0	141
142	142	142	Bank	142	0	0	142
143	143	143	Bank	143	0	0	143
144	144	144	Bank	144	0	0	144
145	145	145	Bank	145	0	0	145
146	146	146	Bank	146	0	0	146
147	147	147	Bank	147	0	0	147
148	148	148	Bank	148	0	0	148
149	149	149	Bank	149	0	0	149
150	150	150	Bank	150	0	0	150

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
151	151	151	Diversified	151	0	0	151
152	152	152	Diversified	152	0	0	152
153	153	153	Diversified	153	0	0	153
154	154	154	Diversified	154	0	0	154
155	155	155	Diversified	155	0	0	155
156	156	156	Diversified	156	0	0	156
157	157	157	Diversified	157	0	0	157
158	158	158	Diversified	158	0	0	158
159	159	159	Diversified	159	0	0	159
160	160	160	Diversified	160	0	0	160

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
161	161	161	Eng. Veh.	161	0	0	161
162	162	162	Eng. Veh.	162	0	0	162
163	163	163	Eng. Veh.	163	0	0	163
164	164	164	Eng. Veh.	164	0	0	164
165	165	165	Eng. Veh.	165	0	0	165
166	166	166	Eng. Veh.	166	0	0	166
167	167	167	Eng. Veh.	167	0	0	167
168	168	168	Eng. Veh.	168	0	0	168
169	169	169	Eng. Veh.	169	0	0	169
170	170	170	Eng. Veh.	170	0	0	170

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
171	171	171	Food Mfg.	171	0	0	171
172	172	172	Food Mfg.	172	0	0	172
173	173	173	Food Mfg.	173	0	0	173
174	174	174	Food Mfg.	174	0	0	174
175	175	175	Food Mfg.	175	0	0	175
176	176	176	Food Mfg.	176	0	0	176
177	177	177	Food Mfg.	177	0	0	177
178	178	178	Food Mfg.	178	0	0	178
179	179	179	Food Mfg.	179	0	0	179
180	180	180	Food Mfg.	180	0	0	180

ELECTRICITY

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
181	181	181	Electricity	181	0	0	181
182	182	182	Electricity	182	0	0	182
183	183	183	Electricity	183	0	0	183
184	184	184	Electricity	184	0	0	184
185	185	185	Electricity	185	0	0	185
186	186	186	Electricity	186	0	0	186
187	187	187	Electricity	187	0	0	187
188	188	188	Electricity	188	0	0	188
189	189	189	Electricity	189	0	0	189
190	190	190	Electricity	190	0	0	190

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
191	191	191	Elect. & Elect.	191	0	0	191
192	192	192	Elect. & Elect.	192	0	0	192
193	193	193	Elect. & Elect.	193	0	0	193
194	194	194	Elect. & Elect.	194	0	0	194
195	195	195	Elect. & Elect.	195	0	0	195
196	196	196	Elect. & Elect.	196	0	0	196
197	197	197	Elect. & Elect.	197	0	0	197
198	198	198	Elect. & Elect.	198	0	0	198
199	199	199	Elect. & Elect.	199	0	0	199
200	200	200	Elect. & Elect.	200	0	0	200

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
201	201	201	Building & Construct.	201	0	0	201
202	202	202	Building & Construct.	202	0	0	202
203	203	203	Building & Construct.	203	0	0	203
204	204	204	Building & Construct.	204	0	0	204
205	205	205	Building & Construct.	205	0	0	205
206	206	206	Building & Construct.	206	0	0	206
207	207	207	Building & Construct.	207	0	0	207
208	208	208	Building & Construct.	208	0	0	208
209	209	209	Building & Construct.	209	0	0	209
210	210	210	Building & Construct.	210	0	0	210

CHEMICALS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
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SHORTS (under 5 years)

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
211	211	211	Shorts	211	0	0	211
212	212	212	Shorts	212	0	0	212
213	213	213	Shorts	213	0	0	213
214	214	214	Shorts	214	0	0	214
215	215	215	Shorts	215	0	0	215
216	216	216	Shorts	216	0	0	216
217	217	217	Shorts	217	0	0	217
218	218	218	Shorts	218	0	0	218
219	219	219	Shorts	219	0	0	219
220	220	220	Shorts	220	0	0	220

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
221	221	221	Mediums	221	0	0	221
222	222	222	Mediums	222	0	0	222
223	223	223	Mediums	223	0	0	223
224	224	224	Mediums	224	0	0	224
225	225	225	Mediums	225	0	0	225
226	226	226	Mediums	226	0	0	226
227	227	227	Mediums	227	0	0	227
228	228	228	Mediums	228	0	0	228
229	229	229	Mediums	229	0	0	229
230	230	230	Mediums	230	0	0	230

LONGS (over 15 years)

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
231	231	231	Longs	231	0	0	231
232	232	232	Longs	232	0	0	232
233	233	233	Longs	233	0	0	233
234	234	234	Longs	234	0	0	234
235	235	235	Longs	235	0	0	235
236	236	236	Longs	236	0	0	236
237	237	237	Longs	237	0	0	237
238	238	238	Longs	238	0	0	238
239	239	239	Longs	239	0	0	239
240	240	240	Longs	240	0	0	240

INDEXED LINKS (in projected inflation)

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
241	241	241	Indexed Links	241	0	0	241
242	242	242	Indexed Links	242	0	0	242
243	243	243	Indexed Links	243	0	0	243
244	244	244	Indexed Links	244	0	0	244
245	245	245	Indexed Links	245	0	0	245
246	246	246	Indexed Links	246	0	0	246
247	247	247	Indexed Links	247	0	0	247
248	248	248	Indexed Links	248	0	0	248
249	249	249	Indexed Links	249	0	0	249
250	250	250	Indexed Links	250	0	0	250

UNLISTED

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
251	251	251	Unlisted	251	0	0	251
252	252	252	Unlisted	252	0	0	252
253	253	253	Unlisted	253	0	0	253
254	254	254	Unlisted	254	0	0	254
255	255	255	Unlisted	255	0	0	255
256	256	256	Unlisted	256	0	0	256
257	257	257	Unlisted	257	0	0	257
258	258	258	Unlisted	258	0	0	258
259	259	259	Unlisted	259	0	0	259
260	260	260	Unlisted	260	0	0	260

BRITISH FUNDS

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
261	261	261	British Funds	261	0	0	261
262	262	262	British Funds	262	0	0	262
263	263	263	British Funds	263	0	0	263
264	264	264	British Funds	264	0	0	264
265	265	265	British Funds	265	0	0	265
266	266	266	British Funds	266	0	0	266
267	267	267	British Funds	267	0	0	267
268	268	268	British Funds	268	0	0	268
269	269	269	British Funds	269	0	0	269
270	270	270	British Funds	270	0	0	270

RETAILERS, FOOD

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
271	271	271	Retailers, Food	271	0	0	271
272	272	272	Retailers, Food	272	0	0	272
273	273	273	Retailers, Food	273	0	0	273
274	274	274	Retailers, Food	274	0	0	274
275	275	275	Retailers, Food	275	0	0	275
276	276	276	Retailers, Food	276	0	0	276
277	277	277	Retailers, Food	277	0	0	277
278	278	278	Retailers, Food	278	0	0	278
279	279	279	Retailers, Food	279	0	0	279
280	280	280	Retailers, Food	280	0	0	280

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1996	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
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UNIT TRUST PRICES 31

UNIT TRUST PRICES 31

EDUCATION

Financial problems plague Paul McCartney's newly opened Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts



THEATRE

Plenty of Sixties memories, but little else in Jim Cartwright's disappointing show *Kiss the Sky*

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 1

Anne-Sophie Mutter mesmerises a Proms audience with her account of the Brahms Violin Concerto



MUSIC 2

A monumental centrepiece for Edinburgh as Abbado conducts Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder*



Students at Liverpool's Institute for the Performing Arts, which opened last January with a fanfare and the high-profile support of Paul McCartney and other music luminaries

All you need is more money

Paul McCartney's Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts is already faced with a £5 million deficit. Andy Lavender reports

Cast your mind back to January, when the winter gloom was brightened by the inauguration of a glamorous new arts initiative. The Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts (LIPA) opened its doors to its first intake of students with a blaze of publicity and much blowing of trumpets. With the high-profile support of Paul McCartney and others in the music business, this was to be a flagship college for those aspiring to work in Britain's entertainment industries. They would emerge with a BA Honours in Performing Arts as dancers, musicians, designers, producers or anything else within the gamut of contemporary arts. The project was regally endorsed when the Queen attended the official opening ceremony in June.

What the luminaries and the students did not know was that Hill, Dickinson, Davis, Campbell, a firm of Merseyside solicitors, had been instructed by LIPA the previous December to investigate a huge overpend on the renovation of LIPA's new premises. They kept that quiet at the various ceremonies. LIPA inhabits a 200-year-old Georgian building, formerly a grammar school, on the edge of Toxteth. It recently announced that the cost of refurbishment, originally estimated at around £8.2 million, had turned out to be more than £12.5 million. So, just two months after its official opening, the LIPA enterprise is grappling with a £5 million deficit.

It is all the more embarrassing given that the project was touted as a model of private and public sector co-operation. Around a third of the funding came from the Government by way of the Liverpool City Challenge Scheme, a third from the European Regional Development Fund and a third from private sponsors and supporters.

This seems a cautionary tale: bright-eyed arts enthusiasts, with pie-in-the-sky notions of a creative Utopia, come smack against harsh realities. But the people at LIPA are perhaps less naïve than first appears. All aspects of the building work are apparently the responsibility of LIPA Holdings, a limited liability company separate from LIPA's educational operation. If disaster strikes LIPA Holdings, ownership of the building is said to revert to LIPA itself. According to Iain Griffiths, the

Institute's director of finance and resources, initial fears that the school might close are "absolutely and utterly not the case at all". Nonetheless, these reassurances must be balanced by anxieties over the money yet to be found. The loudest noise at LIPA at the moment is not that of students composing their masterpieces in the Institute's recording suites or choreographing routines in its dance studios, but of a buck speedily being passed.

Plunder in the sunrise

CONCERTS: Schoenberg and Haydn at the Usher Hall

THE other monumental centrepiece of the fifth Edinburgh International Festival, together with the *War Requiem* performed in the same hall two days earlier, was Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder* — a youthful aspiration which, though formless and wickedly self-indulgent in comparison with Britten's mature masterpiece, is capable of arousing passions of operatic proportions.



While conceding that Claudio Abbado, the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra, the Arnold Schoenberg Choir and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus demonstrated that *Gurrelieder* is more super-Wagner than sub-Wagner, I still confess myself baffled. Between the orchestral introduction, which is an inspired study in orchestral impressionism, and the final chorus, which must be the most dramatic sunrise in music, there is a prolonged and extraordinary mixture of impersonation and originality. Even in the third part — completed in 1911, ten years after the beginning of the work — there is so much Wagner that it was refreshing to hear Mahler being plundered instead once in a while.

as Waldemar had not been more than momentarily submerged. If Jane Eaglen was worried that the lustre seemed to have deserted her sound as Tove she could still take pride in the intensity of it, just as Mariana Lipovsek, a severely uncompassionate Wood Dove, could celebrate the sustained firmness of her line. In fact, there was no end of celebrations all round.

Returning to the Usher Hall in the cool of the late evening to the prospect of a platform only sparsely populated by the Hanover Band was no sort of anticlimax. In fact, it was a most welcome relief to hear two of Haydn's Paris symphonies — all six of which are to be presented before the end of the week — performed with such clarity and such intimacy under the direction of Sir Charles Mackerras. There was satisfaction in the unassuming mastery of such orchestral movements as the variations in Symphony No 85 in B flat (*La Reine*) and the Adagio of No 87 in A, which seems even more beautifully scored when delivered so stylishly in period.

Narrated with much relish (though with poorly adjusted amplification) by the venerable Hans Hotter, the last section was most vividly and, in the end, shatteringly performed by the orchestra and the combined choruses. By this time, Thomas Moser could justifiably have been feeling very happy that, in spite of all Maestro Abbado's apparent efforts, his eloquence

GERALD LARNER



Claudio Abbado rehearsing *Gurrelieder* in Edinburgh

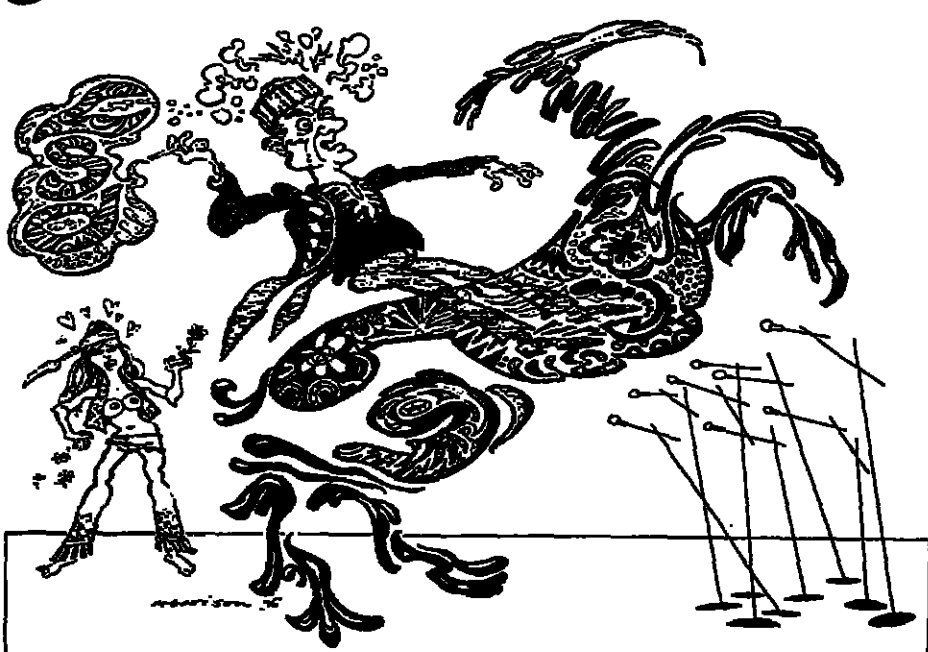
Nostalgia's not what it was

THE Bush pub is a desolate looking place these days. Over its dark, dirty windows is a large placard. "Another great Firkin acquisition by the Firkin Brewery, usque ad mortem bibendum", suggesting that it eventually expects a clientele of beer-swilling yobs with Classics degrees.

But while the place is being expensively prepared for this invasion, the Bush Theatre is moving from the tiny, shabby attic above the pub's antique lavatories to posher, ampler premises next door. The Shepherd's Bush Empire has been a music-hall and a BBC theatre and plenty of other things; but its latest incarnation, as a rock venue, makes it a natural home for Jim Cartwright's *Kiss the Sky*.

Essentially this is yet another compendium show. Sixties number follows Sixties number. Jefferson Airplane, Jimi Hendrix, Pink Floyd, Janis Joplin and, of course, Lennon and McCartney, all put over with terrific verve by Mike Bradwell's cast. My colleague from *The Daily Telegraph*, a rock buff, was wearing a yellow sweater emblazoned with the word "Peace". A glamorous-looking granny sitting near me energetically tapped her foot to the rhythms. Cartwright has provided nostalgia, all right — but has he come up with anything more?

Not a lot. The programme warns that the show "features loud music and scenes of physical and narcotic abandon". Well, the cast's electric guitars certainly keep the ratters and the eardrums quaking. But other forms of abandon are not so obviously in evidence. Nor has Cartwright fully achieved what appears to be his overall aim, which is to create a sort of celebratory satire, or satire



Alan Williams as The Traveller, telling us what it was like to take drugs in Amsterdam

celebration, that brings the Beatles era back to life for a more cynical, pessimistic decade.

There is plenty of verbal string between the songs. An average-seeming bloke tries of conventional Lancashire and goes on the Sixties version of the Grand Tour. Up go the lights on Geoff Rose's jungle-jim set, and there is Alan Williams's Traveller, telling us in his plonking way what it was like to stroll up the King's Road to a squat, or take drugs in Amsterdam, or visit a free-love commune in India, or join the great circle of hippies trying to make the Pentagon disappear. But his is not a very interesting travelogue, and it is a relief when he returns home in time to catch what someone describes as the greatest rock festival in the entire history of Greater Lancashire.

THEATRE
Kiss the Sky
Shepherd's Bush Empire

The not-too-convincing pretence is that this festival is where the era's celebs are singing the songs we are hearing. Two beautiful people garlanded Indian-style ask us to shut our eyes and transmit love and enlightenment to the universe beyond. Even the Living Theatre puts in an appearance, roaming the audience with trademark howls of "I must abide by laws I was not allowed to formulate". But mostly it is the Lancashire lads and lasses who do the speaking.

"Let us join together as part of the universe" and a long harangue from a young woman who claims that the Establishment and its lackeys are running scared of the counter-culture.

We also hear much too much from Rob Jarvis as the Lennon lookalike who acts as MC. He passes on info about the lavatory facilities, mixes rapacious emotional appeals ("let's hear it for the Big Freak in the sky") with warnings about the fuzz, and ends by declaring that Lancashire's Woodstock is a preview of the paradise that will sweep the world by 1987 or 1997. Fortunately, that wasn't true. Sadly, Cartwright's show doesn't leave you caring very much.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

BBC PROMS: Mutter and Masur

Not quite the American dream

THE COMBINATION of Anne-Sophie Mutter and the New York Philharmonic under Kurt Masur, in the second of their Proms (Albert Hall), promised to be a dream ticket. If the promise was not quite lived up to, it was not the fault of either Mutter or Masur. The former turned in one of her mesmerisingly concentrated performances in the Brahms Violin Concerto. From her opening cadenza-like flourishes she commanded attention. Absolute technical mastery and compelling musicianship combine in her to make one of the most remarkable exponents today.

Masur supported her with an individual, intelligently conceived reading of the concerto. Phrasing was always thoughtful and the design of the spacious first movement was cogently plotted. Unfortunately, the Philharmonic failed to produce the playing of world-beating quality we had come to hear. The strings lacked homogeneity, and blending between all departments was less than ideal. Ensemble was erratic and mis-hits were legion. The poorly balanced and insensitive playing that sabotaged Mutter's rapt line after the first-movement cadenza is but one egregious example.

Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* (given in a conflation of the composer's two suites) fared rather better. Here the Philharmonic's raw strings and ungratifying winds came into their own: the dramatic canvas was painted

with a broad brush and the love-music was aptly red-blooded. The *Death of Tybalt* was somewhat feeble, in spite of blowsy brass, though the final bars made a bigger impact.

It took the two final encores — there were three all told — to prove what these players are truly capable of. A Tchaikovsky Waltz was given with an enchanting lilt, and a delicacy and unanimity of which the evening had previously been innocent. Then five of the brass players gathered to give a superb demonstration of rhythmic precision and subtly nuanced textures in jazz idiom. It brought the house down and the Prommers clamoured for more. But the message was contained in the number's title: *That's A Plenty*.

BARRY MILLINGTON



Anne-Sophie Mutter

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POP 1

Cardiff's Donna Lewis couldn't get a record deal in Britain. Now she's climbing the US singles charts



POP 2

Pearl Jam's new album, *No Code*, is both oddly beautiful and just plain odd. But it's pure Pearl Jam

THE TIMES POP ARTS



POP 3

A no-nonsense, 14-track selection of hit singles and stage favourites should delight Levellers fans



POP 4

The reborn Mike Oldfield gets inside the tunes of Celtic culture on his latest release, *Voyager*

Made in Wales, broken in America

Later today Donna Lewis will discover if her single *I Love You Always Forever*, currently No 2 in the American charts, has made its expected upward progress and topped the chart. Already, she has established herself as one of an increasingly rare breed: few British acts are able to crack the American market these days; even fewer of them are solo performers; fewer still are women.

But before we indulge in any vicarious enjoyment of her achievement, we should remember one thing: Lewis could not get a record deal in Britain, and had to go to New York to get signed.

Speaking from her temporary home in Woodstock, New York, the Cardiff-born singer-songwriter admits that even she is stunned by the sudden success of a track that is now four years old, with a lyric inspired by the H.E. Bates novel *Love For Lydia*. "I always believed it was a great little pop song, but I never realised it could take off so fast once it was finally released," she says. "I have to say that I'm completely overwhelmed."

And take off it has done. It entered the Top 100 in June, and since then has leapt consistently up a chart whose sales-plus-airplay system of computation makes it notoriously slow-moving — a rise of two or three places per week is considered good going.

Naturally, once the momentum was established, all the top-rated, primetime TV hosts — David Letterman, Jay Leno and so on — have been keen to

Foie gras there, dogmeat here: welcome to the dislocated world of Donna Lewis

have her perform the song on their shows, so further boosting its sales. "It's really hectic, and sometimes I feel like flinging the phone out of the window," Lewis says. "But it's so tough breaking through as a singer-songwriter, and who knows what will happen with the next single and the one after that? I've been very lucky."

Pragmatic and hard-working, too, Lewis, who will be no more precise about her age than to say she is "thirtysomething", studied flute and piano at college, took a teacher training course for safety's sake, then gave music lessons to support her early attempts at songwriting. Later, she discovered that the Scandinavian piano-bar circuit could be a useful source of income. "I'd go out there for a couple of months at a time, play five hours a night, six nights a week, then come back and buy another piece of gear," she says. "Over time, it helped me to build up my own studio. And it also helped me to mature as a singer — I developed a more individual style along the way."

Although the melodic *I Love You*... offers a taste of what that style has turned out to be, it is more fully explored on the debut album *Now In A Minute*. "Rickie Lee Jones and the Blue Nile have been my biggest influences," Lewis admits. "They both have an absolutely wonderful sense of atmosphere, which, in my own way, I aspire to." And that might just be why she, like the Blue Nile, attracted the attention of an American label, not a British one; there is nothing remotely guitar band-like or Britpop-ish in her or their music.

Ian Grenfell, international director of East-West, which is releasing the song in this country, agrees that domestic pop no longer travels as well as it once did. "It just doesn't have the same international appeal," he says. "For example, the Americans find most of our current guitar bands a little twee. It's no coincidence that the two they most like are Oasis and Elastica, who are among the more derivative and who fit in with their preference for grander gestures and a more sweeping sound." Beyond that, he hints, a protectionist instinct may now be at work, inspired by three decades of British musical invasions.

"Of all overseas territories, America is now the most resistant to us," he continues. "It used to be that, if you got into the Top 40 here, America paid attention and you had a good chance of having a hit there too. Now you have to go to Top Ten before your song will even be listened to or your video watched. Even then, there are no guarantees."

As the world market increases, so the financial stakes get higher. "American labels know that if a Mariah Carey or a Celine Dion breaks everywhere, the returns will be phenomenal," Grenfell says. No wonder, then, that they should prefer the profits to come to them, not to some English company.

And, he says, it will work in Lewis's favour that she was signed in America and has broken there first. "Australia and the Far East feed off America nowadays, not the UK. Had she cracked Britain, but failed to make it across the Atlantic, parts of the rest of the world might have been cut off to her as a result."

Meanwhile, as Lewis waits for the call that will tell her the fate of *I Love You*... on her adoptive country's latest chart, she can draw additional confidence from Grenfell's final comment. "Of course, some singles are just unstoppable — and Donna's is one of them. It's one of those rare songs that will be a hit everywhere."

ALAN JACKSON



Today Donna Lewis's *I Love You Always Forever* could hit No 1 in America. It's released in Britain on Monday



Here's some good news for Pearl Jam fans: "The copyist's tag should be cut off here and now. Eddie Vedder [far right] is plainly his own man"

Fully rounded Pearl

PEARL JAM

No Code
(Epic CD 484448-4)

WITH grunge a much devalued commodity and a birth certificate stamped "Seattle" no longer accepted as instant proof of musical cool, the rug has rather been pulled from under Eddie Vedder and Pearl Jam's feet. However much they might have hoped to be seen as individualists, owing allegiance to no cause but their own, they were — from 1992's debut *Ten* onwards — perceived widely as mere Nirvana wannabes and despite, or perhaps because of, multimillion sales, much derided as a consequence.

If ever the charge had any truth, it should have been finally disproved by the band's third album, *Vitalogy* (1994). At last, the pain and doubt in Vedder's ravaged voice and similarly troubled lyrics seemed entirely unconscious, and beyond any accusation of Kurt Cobain parody.

And in the time that has passed since its release (and as the PR material accompanying this fourth LP is at pains to point out), all five Pearl Jam members, plus longtime collaborator-producer Brendan O'Brien, have been involved in myriad other projects, ranging from film soundtrack work to parallel membership of, and recording with, other bands. Is it because of boredom? Frustration? Fatigue at being so closely linked with a movement they never sought to join, and which has now been deemed unfashionable?

More likely, if one pours over the lyrics here, it is because Vedder has been struggling to find himself, or at least has been asking those age-old "What's it all about, Alfie?"-type questions. The result is an album that is

NEW ALBUMS: Alan Jackson cheers as Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder finally emerges from the shadow of Nirvana

sometimes oddly beautiful (*Around the Bend*, *Present Tense*), often just plain odd (*In My Tree*) but, best of all, consistently unlike anything other than Pearl Jam. That copyist's tag should be cut off here and now. Vedder is plainly his own man.

NEUROTIC OUTSIDERS

(Maverick/WEA 0630-15536-2)

IF A supergroup is one whose line-up boasts the best-known members of a range of other bands, then the *Neurotic Outsiders* come under starter's orders as merely super-ish. Steve Jones, John Taylor, Duff McKagan and Matt Sorum can claim respective membership of the Sex Pistols, Duran Duran and Guns N'Roses, but they would hardly be at the top of any autograph-hunter's list. "A shared love of loud, aggressive guitar music" drew them together, we're told; of clichéd rock riffs

and behind-the-bike-sheds humour too, as is proved to some tedium across 11 original tracks and a redundant cover of the Clash's *Jane's Addie*.

They're probably a lot of fun to see live (they began collective life at a benefit gig held at Los Angeles's infamous Viper Room) and, indeed, hope to play here next month. But for lazy, self-referential humour and musical indulgence, recorded tracks such as *Jerk* and *Union* take some beating.

MIKE OLDFIELD

Voyager
(WEA 0630-15896-2)

THE NEWS that Oldfield has relocated recently to Ibiza, coupled with the fact that he has been name-checked as an influence by more than one of today's electro-dance bands, might lead you to expect *Voyager* to be some kind of soundtrack to life in the blissed-out Balearics. In fact, it's all so

unremittingly Celtic that you can imagine the Scottish and Irish tourist boards swooning with joy on hearing it. A few well-chosen shots of rugged landscapes and hey presto, the instant TV advertisement.

In combining new and original material with his arrangements of traditional songs and airs (*She Moves Through the Fair*, *Women of Ireland* and so on), Oldfield reminds us again of his skill at getting inside a cultural genre, replicating its tones and mood. Whether *Voyager* will perform as well as 1992's career-relaunching *Tubular Bells II* remains to be seen. A club remix or two may be in order.

LEVELLERS
Best Live: Headlights,
White Lines, *Black Tar Rivers*
(China CD WOLCD1047)

SCORNEO by both music critics and the style police, but huge with what their detractors usually term raggle-taggle refuseniks (er, that's students and anyone else whose conscience is bigger than their clothes budget), the Brighton-based Levellers have proved conclusively that unfashionable does not have to mean unsuccessful.

None of their four studio LPs has ever quite achieved the same momentum as their raucous, fiddle-driven stage shows however, making the band better than usual candidates for that potentially disastrous venture, a live album. The good news is that this no-nonsense, 14-track selection of hit singles and stage favourites — recorded on tour throughout Europe last year — makes a better-than-average list of explaining why singer Mark Chadwick and colleagues retain so devoted a following: their heady self-belief is captured perfectly.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Jagged Little Pill Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
- 2 Recurring Dream — the Very Best of Crowded House (Capitol)
- 3 The Smurfs Go Pop! Smurfs (EMI TV)
- 4 (What's the Story) Morning Glory? Oasis (Creation)
- 5 Moseley Shoals Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
- 6 Older George Michael (Virgin)
- 7 Free Peace Sweet Dodgy (A&M)
- 8 Falling Into You Celine Dion (Epic)
- 9 The Score Fugees (Columbia)
- 10 Everything Must Go Manic Street Preachers (Epic)

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Kenickie bless the beats, the beasts and the children

Laverne and shrilly

These are stars. "Other bands, they're not so clever. Instance: when they get a deal with a record company, they waste it all on instruments. This is foolish. There are lipsticks. There are many hair preparations. There are handbags in various colours of the world. Life needs investment."

These are stars. It seems like they just woke up one day and decided to be starlike, dress like stars, talk like stars, hang out all the places stars do. "We've always been — unusual," Lauren Laverne says cheerfully. "We've always embraced peculiar lifestyles and manners — we've been spies, serial killers. We've kept things varied. But it seemed that pop music needed us, and so we regretfully let the lease expire on the beach house, dirtied ourselves up, affected the disguise of 17-year-old girls from Sunderland and here we are, to make your lives strange."

Laverne — "My name is from the French 'la', meaning 'the' — is Kenickie's lead singer. She has the marvellous habit of stroking each of her fingers in turn across her cheek while raising an eyebrow, Cruella De Vil-style. The band itself is the stard-

toothed brainchild of Laverne and her best friend since the age of seven, the effervescent Marie Du Santiago. On the day Kenickie signed their record deal, they celebrated by hiring an open-top bus and driving around London. Du



CAITLIN MORAN

Santiago failed to notice a low bridge and was nearly decapitated.

The band is completed by Laverne's brother Pete, who drums and prefers to be called X; and Emmy-Kate Montrose, who was in Byker Grove — "the North East's answer to *Grange Hill*". Together, these four quarter parts of Kenickie make two-minute singles that start in top gear and then change up, horse-sized adrenalin pills with titles like *Catsuit City* and *Come Out 2Nite*.

Lauren's lyrics are everything lyrics should be: her appraisal of falling off her new skateboard goes: "I hate skateboarding/I hate everything, it's so s***/ And unfortunately, I've just wasted, like, 95 pence, quid." The focus of hatred in *Come Out 2Nite* is dismissed with "She drank all that we had/She threw up and I was glad." It's the Corybantic kick of punk-punk, but with a sense of space and melody that promises a debut album to get very excited about: although it only exists, as yet, in Kenickie's fizzing heads.

"We intend to progress," Lauren says. "We will have many phases. A phase of jumping from tall places on to small things, a phase of drinking, but backwards so that vodka will shoot through our eyes like a laser-gun."

"A phase of animal substitution," Du Santiago says gleefully. "We will mark our every TV appearance by substituting one member of the band with an animal. When Kenickie becomes four parts animal, we will begin to reintroduce human life. It will be interesting to see how beasts have shaped our sound."

The single, *Punkin*, is released on Sept 2 by EMIDisc. Kenickie play the Reading Festival tomorrow



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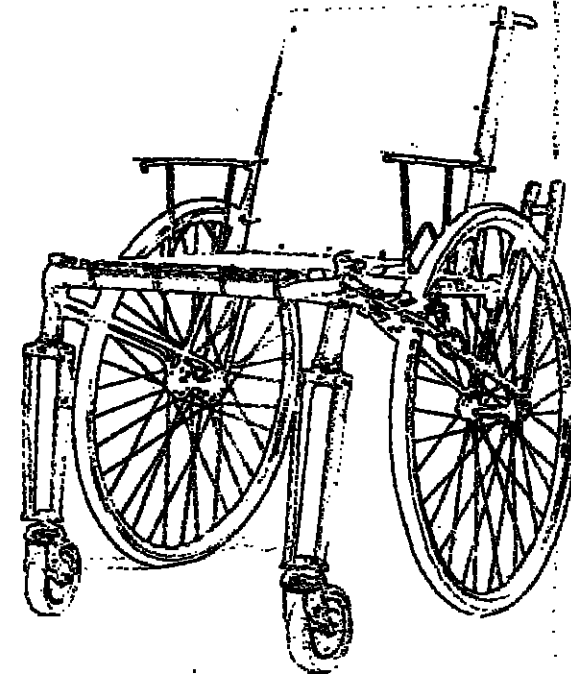


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GCSE DRAMA (London Board)

MOTOR RACING

Help at hand to improve Hill starts

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

THE longest circuit on the Formula One calendar plunges down through the Ardennes Forest here, rounds countless sweeping curves and negotiates a glorious variety of challenging corners. Damon Hill, thought, arrived yesterday with just one 200-metre stretch of track on his mind. When the lights go out to signal the rush from the start to the first corner in the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday, he wants to be wide awake.

Poor starts have cost Hill valuable places in the last three races and allowed Jacques Villeneuve, his Williams-Renault team-mate, to sneak back into contention for the drivers' world championship. Hill's technique of getting off the grid, therefore, has been subjected to intense scrutiny since his last hiccup in Hungary a fortnight ago. Suddenly, he has found himself being quizzed about the minutiae of the relative merits of using a hand-held clutch, as used by Villeneuve, as opposed to the more traditional one that he prefers. To confuse matters, he introduced a variant to the system during a test in Barcelona last week, experimenting with a push-button handbrake while he brought the clutch to biting point with his feet as usual.

Reports from Spain said he had experienced difficulties with this method, too, apparently stalling twice. Eddie Irvine who, like Villeneuve, uses the hand-held clutch system, simply said yesterday that the foot-operated alternative was "daft".

Patrick Head, the Williams technical director, said: "If you can imagine having a hand clutch and two pedals, you have the possibility of putting your right foot on the throttle and the left hand on the brake, while simultaneously letting the clutch out until you feel the car straining against the brakes as the clutch bites and then taking your foot off the brake when the lights go out."

"The problem for Damon is that he has got three pedals and only two feet and, if he's got one foot on

the accelerator and one foot on the clutch, he hasn't got one for the brake. Although we can provide him with an electronic handbrake, the problem is that you don't have so much feel. You can't feel through the brake pedal when the car is beginning to creep as the clutch bites.

In the existing situation, Damon has to keep one foot on the accelerator and one on the clutch. He's off the brake pedal, he's got nothing stopping the car moving so he can't come back and find the bite point on the clutch. So when the lights change, he's got to take his foot back on the clutch and find just the right point at which it is gripping to produce drive, but not get so much grip at low speed that it bogs the engine down. He has got to find that point, whereas Jacques is already there."

On three of the four occasions this season that Hill has fluffed the start, it has cost him the race, fuelling the theory first aired by Michael Schumacher that Hill struggles when he is not front-running. Hill disproved that a fortnight ago in Hungary when he fought his way up from fourth to finish second, ironically, a poor start here would not be nearly as harmful as at the Hungaroring because there are far more opportunities to overtake. Hill, though, who has a 17-point lead over Villeneuve with four races to go, is convinced that the problem is solved anyway.

"I found out a few things in Barcelona that could be very useful so I am more confident about getting the car off the line," he said. "If I can do that quickly, I will be very difficult to beat in the race. All it was adjusting my strategy on the use of the clutch."

"I did try the hand clutch at the start of the season, but I have certain reservations about doing it that way. I am certain I am doing the right thing by continuing to use the same method I always have. I have, after all, made more better starts than had starts this season."

Britten pursues title on wing and a prayer

Eve-Ann Prentice on a British pilot hoping to reach new heights and become the world aerobatic champion

For a woman who sometimes has her head in the clouds, Diana Britten knows the importance of staying in control. As the British national aerobatic champion, she is competing for the world title in Oklahoma this week, before defending her United Kingdom title in September.

Air displays, which draw the second-largest sporting crowds after football in this country, have been the focus of extra attention this summer after a series of light aircraft crashes at airshows and involving private pilots.

Britten, 50, said the toll of at least 13 accidents should bring a review of safety standards. As someone who has already seen the inside of an intensive care ward after a near-fatal car crash in the Sixties, she is trying to minimise the risk of her high-speed, high-skill pursuit of perfection in the skies.

"It seems to me that some of these deaths could have been avoided," she said. "We seriously need to look at what we are doing: whether it is abuse of the aircraft, manufacturing faults or abuse of the body, we need to look at it." Britten is especially concerned about the effects of the gravitational forces that aerobatic pilots undergo during their manoeuvres.

"People nowadays get their hands on some pretty hot machinery," she said. "And the effects of G [gravity] can be catastrophic. There needs to be a greater awareness of what we are dealing with."

Britten's route to the British championship and her shot at the world title was as topsy-turvy as her life of loops, inverted spins and flick rolls. She had had her first taste of aerobatics before she had completed her first solo flight. Her husband, John, enrolled for flying lessons and urged Britten to do the same. She had had a few hours of lessons in Britain in 1980, when she found herself near the Cannes aerobatic school. She still wonders if the school misunderstood her poor French and thought that she had had ten hours of aerobatic training instead of ten hours in total.



Britten, who is attempting to win the world championship under the shadow of a series of crashes involving other light aircraft

Although at that stage she was still unable to make a good landing, she learnt to put together a simple series of aerobatics and was smitten. After years of enjoying horse riding and, having had three daughters, including twins, Britten said she suddenly had a new goal to aim for — flying in the world championships.

Nowadays, she speaks fluent French — "I think in French when I am doing aerobatics" — after becoming steeped in French aerobatic training methods, which she described as structured and carefully thought-out.

"When I go to a competition, I go to win, not to joke around and socialise," she said. The winning, though, is its own reward; there are no cash prizes and competing in aerobatic contests is expensive. "It costs me £150 an hour to fly, my

plane and it often takes hours of flying across Europe even to reach the airfield where a competition is taking place."

When speaking about her aircraft — a customised, super-tuned Extra 260 — Britten's eyes burn with a Thatcherite zeal. "This is state-of-the-art," she said, inviting me to sit in the cockpit of the single-seater. "The performance and the roll-rate may be there, but they are only as good as the pilot. You have to keep the energy going; it's all a matter of throttle management."

The harness Britten dons before performing her aerobatics is so tight that she can barely breathe. She has to fasten the control stick to her harness with a piece of elastic when starting up — because she has not "the same muscle mass as a man" — while both hands are

engaged in controlling the throttle, fuel mixture and ignition.

"Don't you want to stay in there longer?" she asked. "I always feel very at home in it; it gives a fantastic, good feeling."

Does she ever become frightened? "You have moments of apprehension, but it's not fear, it is crossing a mental bridge. Doing an outside loop or an inverted spin, there is this tremendous mental barrier to overcome."

"I sum up being frightened as not being control of a situation. I have been seriously frightened riding horses and I don't like being under water. I don't like putting my head under water."

She recounted how a villager had run breathlessly towards her as she walked around the single-engine aircraft that had just made a forced landing in a field.

"Where is he? Where is he?" the villager demanded, searching for the pilot.

Britten gave a wry smile as she recalled landing in the field after her engine failed when she was performing "gentle" aerobatics in the skies over Surrey. "I am not a feminist or anything, but why do they have to assume the pilot is a man?"

For someone who is not a feminist, there is a touch of ice when she talks about some of the men in the flying circuit. Of a former British aerobatic champion, she said: "He has never flown against me and, quite frankly, he would not be able to beat me." It is symptomatic of the combative nature of competitive aerobatics that the former champion recently said exactly the same thing about her.

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CRICKET: LANCASHIRE BATSMAN RESUMES HIS INNINGS SIX RUNS SHORT OF MAIDEN TEST CENTURY

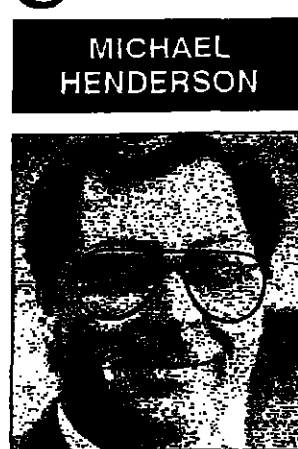
Crawley so close to fulfilment at highest level

Test match temperament, like the love of God and the career of Chris Lewis, "passeth all understanding", but there was no mistaking it yesterday. John Crawley has it with knobs on, and, if he finds the six runs he needs this morning to complete his first Test hundred, it may be just the liberating innings that enables him to make many more.

One or two eyebrows were raised when Crawley was preferred to other batsmen in better form for the Headingley Test. He batted well there, to justify the decision, and he batted quite superbly yesterday. After failing to pick up the length of a ball from Wagar Younis when he was two, and getting the benefit of a leg before shout, he played not a false stroke until Sohail found his edge 86 runs later.

Some of his strokes were glorious. He drove Mushtaq through cover three times in an over with something approaching majesty, and pushed Wasim back down the pitch in a way that recalled the words of that formidable Hampshireman, Phil Mead: "Hard enough for four, hard enough". He defended stoutly too, when he had to, and appeared to be the least concerned person on the ground when he ran out of overs last night.

Temperament, without it the most talented players are washed up on the rocky shores. It was absolutely clear yesterday that Crawley, like the less gifted Nick Knight in his short Test career, feels



At the Oval

comfortable at this level, whereas Mark Ramprakash and Graeme Hick, for all their runs elsewhere, never were. More than most, Crawley was always the man "most likely to". Cyril Washbrook, to whom flattery is a foreign tongue, declared that the teenage Crawley "would play for England by the time he was 21". Washbrook was a year out and when Crawley was selected, against South Africa two summers ago, he looked out of sorts. He also favoured the on side excessively, and the quality of his off-side driving yesterday was a blessed reminder of how the determined player can reform his game.

Three times in his Test career, Crawley has been denied opportunities that should have been his. England picked Mike Gatting ahead of him in

Brisbane at the start of the last Ashes series. He was then demoted behind Ramprakash last year, against West Indies, and yet again when Robin Smith was favoured in South Africa last winter.

Earlier this year David Lloyd, Crawley's former coach at Old Trafford, was asked whether his pupil would kick on this summer. "It won't be for want of effort", he answered. There is a tendency in certain dim quarters to think of men like Atherton and Crawley as soft, because they went to a decent school and read History at Cambridge. But Atherton has shown the world how soft he is, and Crawley is not far behind his captain either in intelligence or guts. Put it this way, he won't fold.

He is just short of his 25th birthday and the events of the past two years have helped to reinforce his natural ability with a hunger to force that ability home. There is plenty of time for him to justify the kind words that have been lavished on him. Graham Gooch was almost 27 when he made his first Test hundred. Mark Waugh, the batsman Crawley most admires, was 25 when he made one, on his first attempt, and look at him now.

It is not being naughty to suggest Crawley can prosper to bat at that level if he maintains the improvement of the last year. Whatever, he is going to give a lot of people a lot of pleasure. At his best, like Waugh, he makes batting look easy.

So, please: six more runs!



Crawley plays a handsome drive on his way to an unbeaten 94 at the Oval yesterday

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Essex v Gloucestershire

COLCHESTER (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Essex, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 208 runs behind Gloucestershire

GLoucestershire: First Innings

D R Hewson c Lewis b Williams 37

M G N Windward b Iltis 32

A Symonds c Lewis b Iltis 32

M A Lynch c Rollins b Iltis 18

M W Alleyne c Lewis b Iltis 18

R P Davis c Grayson b Iltis 18

M C J Ball c Lewis b Iltis 18

A M Smith b Iltis 18

C A Walsh not out 18

Extras (b 2, lb 9, nb 20) 31

Total (77 overs) 280

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-57, 2-113, 3-134, 4-185, 5-173, 6-242, 7-257, 8-263, 9-263

BOWLING: Iltis 16-14-7-2; Williams 16-15-1; Iltis 11-0-53-1; Cowan 16-3-6-5; Such 15-7-25-1; Grayson 3-0-14-0

ESSEX: First Innings

G A Gooch not out 33

D D J Robinson not out 35

Extras (b 4) 14

Total (no wkt, 25 overs) 72

A P Grayson, P J Prichard, R C Iltis, J B Lewis, R J Rollins, M C Iltis, N F Williams, A P Cowan and P M Such to bat

BOWLING: Walsh 9-1-35-0; Smith 7-2-22-0; Alleyne 7-4-7-0; Davis 1-0-4-0; Ball 1-1-0-0

Bonus points: Essex 4 Gloucestershire 2

Umpires: J D Bond and K E Palmer

Glamorgan v Kent

CARDIFF (first day of four; Kent won toss): Kent have scored 128 for one wicket against Glamorgan

KENT: First Innings

D P Fulton not out 53

M J Walker c James b Dale 59

T R Ward not out 14

Extras (b 4, lb 1, w 1, nb 8) 14

Total (1 wkt, 42.5 overs) 128

C L Hooper, N J Long, M V Fleming, S A Marsh, D W Headley, M M Patel, M J McCague and T N Wren to bat

FALL OF WICKET: 1-122

BOWLING: Wallis 8-1-21-0; Gibson 10-3-32-0; Dale 8-5-31-1; Searcote 11-5-18-0; Hamp 5-0-21-0

GLAMORGAN: S P James, H Morris, D L Hogg, M P Maynard, P A Copley, A Dale, O D Gibson, N M Kendrick, T A Shaw, S L Watson, S R Barwick

Umpires: B Dudson and G Sharp

Leicestershire v Hampshire

LEICESTER (first day of four; Leicestershire won toss): Leicestershire have scored 343 for eight wickets against Hampshire

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

V J Wells c Aynes b Renshaw 24

D L Maddy b James 11

J J Whitaker b Bovill 48

B F Smith c Udal b Renshaw 34

P V Simmons c Smith b Renshaw 108

A Habib c Aynes b Renshaw 4

TP A Nixon not out 67

D J Mills c James b Stephenson 17

G P Parsons c Stephenson b Bovill 9

AR K Pearson not out 9

Extras (b 9, lb 3, w 1, nb 8) 21

Total (8 wks, 104 overs) 343

M T Brimston to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33, 2-80, 3-122, 4-144, 5-167, 6-278, 7-321, 8-322

BOWLING: Bovill 22-9-59-2; Renshaw 22-6-55-4; Stephenson 17-5-53-1; James 24-1-99-1; Udal 10-2-33-0; Keach 5-1-8-0

HAMPSHIRE: P J Stephenson, G W White, K D James, R A Smith, W S Kendrick, M Keach, P R Whitaker, J A Aynes, S D Udal, S J Renshaw, J N B Bovill

Bonus points: Leicestershire 3 Hampshire 3

Umpires: G I Burgess and R Palmer

Northamptonshire v Sussex

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four; Sussex won toss): Sussex have scored 389 for seven wickets against Northamptonshire

SUSSEX: First Innings

N J Latham c Ripley b Penberthy 145

C W J Athey b Ripley 13

K Greenfield c Ripley b Penberthy 22

A P Wells b Penberthy 51

M P Spaight c Ambrose b Penberthy 12

D R Law b Ripley 11

TP Moore b Embury 2

N C Phillips not out 23

Extras (b 6, lb 13, w 1, nb 10) 30

Total (7 wks, 107 overs) 389

D L Lavery and R J Kirtley to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-95, 3-244, 4-261, 5-277, 6-289, 7-299

BOWLING: Ambrose 17-6-40-0; Taylor 16-1-91-1; Capel 15-1-58-0; Embury 25-7-75-2; Strape 15-2-49-0; Penberthy 15-4-36-4

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: A Fordham, R R Montgomery, K J Jones, K M Curran, D J Capel, A L Penberthy, J E Embury, J N Snape, D J Ripley, C E L Ambrose, J P Taylor

Bonus points: Northamptonshire 3 Sussex 4

Umpires: A Clarkson and J W Holder

Nottinghamshire v Surrey

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four; Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire have scored 392 for six wickets against Surrey

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings

R T Robinson c Renshaw b Benjamin 21

A M Metcalfe c Butler b Julian 21

G F Archer not out 143

J D Johnson c Julian b Pearson 13

M P Downman c b D J Bicknell 107

C J Cairns c b Pearson 4

K P Evans c Kersley b D J Bicknell 6

Extras (b 4, lb 9, w 4, nb 22) 43

Total (6 wks, 99.3 overs) 392

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-84, 2-83, 3-98, 4-285, 5-290, 6-308

BOWLING: M P Bicknell 13-2-44-0; Benjamin 13-2-47-1; Julian 13-3-0-76

1: Hollister 12-3-43-0; Pearson 29-4-87-2; Shahid 4-0-27-0; D J Bicknell 15-0-51-2

SURREY: D J Bicknell, M A Butcher, J D Ratcliffe, A D Brown, A J Hollister, N Shahid, J Kersley, R M Pearson, S P Julian, M P Bicknell, J E Benjamin

Bonus points: Nottinghamshire 4 Surrey 2

Umpires: T E Jesty and A A Jones

Worcestershire v Warwickshire

WORCESTER (first day of four; Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire have scored 255 for nine wickets against Worcestershire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

W G Khan c Hick b Lampitt 52

M J Powell b Lampitt 36

D P Oller c Rhodes b Illingworth 20

A Singh c Curtis b Lampitt 20

T L Parney c Rhodes b Illingworth 14

S M Pollock c Rhodes b Lampitt 15

D R Brown c Hick b Illingworth 0

R K Piper c Ellis b Illingworth 6

N M K Smith b b Sherriff 57

F Giles not out 30

Extras (b 5, w 1, nb 10) 16

Total (9 wks, 84 overs) 255

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-82, 2-93, 3-98, 4-128, 5-142, 6-149, 7-149, 8-161, 9-188

BOWLING: Sherriff 12-3-50-1; Ellis 7-1-36-0; Moody 8-1-32-0; Lampitt 22-5-85-4; Illingworth 31-13-48-4; Hick 4-2-15-0

WORCESTERSHIRE: W P C Weston, T S Curtis, G A Hick, T M Moody, K R Spirling, V S Solanki, R S Rhodes, S R Lampitt, R K Illingworth, S W K Ellis, A Sherriff

Bonus points: Worcestershire 4 Warwickshire 2

Umpires: A G T Whitehead and P Willey

Yorkshire v Lancashire

HEADINGLEY (first day of four; Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire have scored 305 for five wickets against Lancashire

YORKSHIRE: First Innings

M D Moxon c Lloyd b Keedy 68

M Vaughan c Hagg b Keedy 57

D Sayer c Wallisworth b Green 45

A McGrath b b Green 15

R A Kettleborough b Gallian 34

C White not out 38

R J Bailey not out 10

Extras (b 4, lb 4, nb 4) 12

Total (5 wks, 100 overs) 305

D Gough, P J Hartley, C E W Silverwood and R D Stamp to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-110, 2-131, 3-192, 4-187, 5-273

BOWLING: Martin 18-4-59-0; Keedy 10-1-48-0; Green 19-5-52-2; Chapple 34-9-75-2; Wallisworth 14-4-44-0

LANCASHIRE: S P Titchard, J E R Gallian, N J Speak, N H Farnbrother, D Lloyd, M Wallisworth, W K Hogg, R J Green, G Keedy, P J Martin, G Chapple

Bonus points: Yorkshire 3 Lancashire 2

Umpires: J H Harris and V A Holder

Somerset v Durham

WESTON-SUPER-MARE (second day of four): Somerset, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 90 runs behind Durham

DURHAM: First Innings 325 (D M Cox 95 not out, S L Campbell 69; G D Rose 7 for 73)

SOMERSET: First Innings

M N Lathwell c Hutton b Kileen 85

M Trescothick b b Cox 33

J D Borthwick b Kileen 33

R D Bower c Lignwood b Brown 9

R J Harden not out 38

S G Eccleshall retired hurt 30

Extras (b 1, lb 17, w 1) 19

Total (4 wks, 74.1 overs) 236

R J Turner, G D Rose, J D Kerr and A P Van Troost to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-60, 2-76, 3-96, 4-154

BOWLING: Brown 22-8-71-2; Saggers 15-1-52-0; Cox 23-9-52-1; Kileen 10-2-34-1; Bainbridge 4-2-9-0

Bonus points: Somerset 5 Durham 4

Umpires: H D Bird and R A White

Third under-19 Test match

England v New Zealand

HOVE (first day of four; England won toss): England have scored 348 for seven wickets against New Zealand

ENGLAND: First Innings

E T Smith b b Sewell 25

A J Swann b b Cune 25

D G Smith b b Sewell 31

D G Smith c b Sewell 31

A C Morris b Sewell 12

U Azzal b Vettori 12

M A Wagh c b b Cune 38

D A Coster not out 19

Extras (b 6, lb 3, nb 14) 23

Total (7 wks, 104 overs) 345

C L Campbell and M J Hoggard to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-50, 3-188, 4-100, 5-239, 6-310, 7-343

BOWLING: Sewell 19-0-84-3; Cune 19-7-73-2; Walker 8-1-40-0; Vettori 39-7-72; McMillan 10-3-22-0; Morison 15-4-0-0

NEW ZEALAND: M D Bell, M D J Walker, N P Parsons, C D McMillan, D P Oller, J England, G S Hopkins, S J Curran, D I Vettori, N D Morison, D J Constant and B Leadbeater

Rain halts Kent's progress

By JOHN THICKESSE

CARDIFF (first day of four; Kent won toss) Kent have scored 128 for three wickets against Glamorgan

KENT's hopes of reasserting themselves in the race for the county championship suffered at the hands of the Cardiff weather yesterday. Only 42.5 overs were possible at Sophia Gardens before the second downpour of the day ended play shortly after lunch.

It was time that second-placed Kent can ill-afford to lose, although David Fulton and Matthew Walker at least laid the foundations of a big first-innings score with an opening partnership of 122.

Walker, fresh from scoring 275 not out against Somerset last week, was the beneficiary of a rare loose throw from Adrian Dale. Responding to Fulton's call for a single, Walker checked in mid-pitch and would have been run out by several feet had the throw been on target. Instead, it flew over the head of Adrian Shaw, the Glamorgan wicketkeeper, for an overthrow.

Walker reached 59 before cutting Dale to Steve James at gully, his first championship dismissal since David Capel trapped him leg-before at Northampton 15 days and 388 runs earlier.

In the over before Walker's dismissal, Fulton drove Steve Barwick for exquisite straight drives to complete his 50 off 127 balls.

White puts seal on productive clash

By SIMON WILDE

HEADINGLEY (first day of four; Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire have scored 305 for five wickets against Lancashire

YORKSHIRE, whose championship campaign was in serious danger of entering a freefall after three successive defeats against moderate opposition, enjoyed about as good a day as they could have hoped for yesterday.

They won an important toss and their undemoralised batsmen spent the day feasting on some indifferent Lancashire bowling to establish a strong position on a dry pitch that may break up. In view of the fact that Lancashire put them out of both knockout cups at the semi-final stage this season, it was a doubly satisfying day's work.

Three batsmen — Moxon, Vaughan and White, who have all experienced lean times of late — scored half-centuries and Byas weighed in with a fluent 45. The only failure was McGrath, who was unfortunate to be leg before to a ball that kept low, and even he spent 75 minutes at the crease.

Yorkshire's largest partnership was put together by Moxon and Vaughan, their opening pair, who rattled up 110 in the first 32 overs as though neither they nor their side had a care in the world.

There was a time in Roses fixtures when a boundary before lunch was regarded as an

David Maddock on the latest twist in the career of Kenny Dalglish

Enigma of man who lost the will to manage

Wood Park on a damp Lancashire morning. There are people, heavy with the misty rain that seems to seep into every crevice, moving slowly about the place with little purpose, their heads turned down from the grey skies.

There is little to do in Blackburn, but the lack of meaning on the faces of those milling about the place can more be ascribed to a sense of loss. Kenny Dalglish, the man who dragged Blackburn

'He has twice seen people die at football grounds'

Rovers out of the cobbled backstreets onto the football superhighway, resigned the night before.

Despite the dismay expressed by many of his adoring fans yesterday, the demise of Dalglish as a Rovers figurehead caused barely a flutter in the football world, such was the lack of surprise. For the past year, Dalglish had been employed as Director of Football and few expected it to continue for much longer.

As a manager, Dalglish has clawed his way to the summit of the game, but suffered altitude sickness and retired from the dizzying heights. Yesterday was another stomach-churning drop on his roller-coaster ride of highs and lows in the game he can not get out of his blood.

Little more than a year ago, he had steered Blackburn to their first championship success in 81 years to lay claim to true greatness in management. Then, inexplicably, just as he had done four years previously at Liverpool, he turned his back on it all by resigning as manager. Black-

burn begged him to stay and created a directorship to keep him, but the seeds of his departure were sown that day.

"Dalglish's influence effectively ended a year ago when he stepped down as manager. Effectively, he left a year ago," Robert Carr, the club chairman, said yesterday. Carr clearly admitted that the club had taken the decision to remove him as Director of Football because it was a situation that did not work. There was not a job for him.

The former Scotland international was upset when the call came, privately confessing his disappointment at the way he has been treated. That was clearly on the agenda when he spoke of the departure yesterday. "It

is the first time I have become unemployed by someone else's choice. We came to the same opinion that I should leave, albeit the club came to that decision before me," he said.

It was obvious that the ghostly presence of Dalglish, hovering in the Ewood Park shadows, was beginning to haunt Ray Harford, his successor. Following the departure of Alan Shearer, Harford has been put under immense pressure to achieve and the last thing he needs is a predecessor still there reminding everyone past glories.

The real question is not why he has departed this week, but why he jumped out of the manager's seat a year ago. He had done the same before, remember, when he stunned Merseyside by walking out on Liverpool in 1991. Both times,



Dalglish is exultant as the final whistle of the 1994-95 season sees Blackburn Rovers crowned as champions

he had achieved much and was conceivably on the verge of much more.

Dalglish is a genuine enigma. He rarely offers a straight answer and no one has pinned him down on his reasons for

quitting in such spectacular style. He is a family man, his wife, Marina, and four children occupying his thoughts even when immersed in the cut-throat business of football. He wanted, he said, to spend

more time with them. But it is more than that, much more. Kenny Dalglish has twice witnessed disaster at a football ground. He has seen people die as they innocently pursued a leisure pastime. At

Heysel, he was shielded from the worst of it. At Hillsborough, where 95 Liverpool fans suffered terrible deaths, Dalglish witnessed the full horror. He grieved with the families



The strain of management, both at Liverpool and Blackburn, contrasts with the image of Dalglish as a player

KENNY DALGLISH

CAREER: 1951. Born in Dalnarnock, Glasgow. 1968. Turned professional with Celtic. 1969. First-team debut. 1971. First Scotland cap. 1977. Signed Liverpool for £400,000. 1985. Appointed manager of Liverpool. 1991. Resigned. February. Appointed Blackburn manager in October. 1995. Leads Blackburn to first championship for 81 years. Becomes director of football. 1996. Leaves by mutual consent.

HONOURS: Celtic (24) games, 167 goals. League champions: 1972, 1973, 1974, 1977. FA Cup winners: 1974, 1975, 1977. League Cup winners: 1975. Liverpool (515) games, 173 goals. European Cup winners: 1978, 1981, 1984. League champions: 1979, 1980, 1992. 1993. 1994. 1995. 1996. (as player-manager). 1996. 1997. 1998. 1999. FA Cup winners: 1986 (as player-manager). 1989 (as manager). League Cup winners: 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984 (as player). Blackburn (as manager) 1992 promoted to Premiership. 1994. Runners-up: 1995. Premiership champions. International record: 102 games (Scotland record), 30 goals (record shared with Denis Law).

of victims afterwards and still carries a dignified sense of commitment to those supporters. He has been scarred by those events and the most important lesson that he carries with him is that football is not more important than life itself.

That is why when at Liverpool the pressure got so intense that he felt "his head might explode" he turned his back on it. There were health problems, severe ones to be outlined in a new book he has written and he knew it was not worth it.

Again, a year ago, he was suffering health problems — he spent some time in hospital during Blackburn's title-winning season — and he knew he wanted far more to spend time with his family than with the day-to-day hassles of his job. He seemed to have found the perfect answer, a backroom position, plenty of golf and still involvement at a lesser level, but it was not to be.

This week, it was football turning its back on Dalglish for a change and he almost feels betrayed, especially after leaving a legacy of rejuvenation at Ewood Park. He has turned the club around and he has also created a wonderful youth structure that will soon be paying dividends.

He will be back, of that there is no doubt. Celtic is one possibility, Leeds United, perhaps Arsenal. He will bide his time, maybe take a few more months off, but he will be waiting for one last crack at proving his greatness. He said as much yesterday, when he said: "I'll not be finished with football, but maybe football is finished with me."

Ferguson escapes action by FA after outburst

By Peter Ball

ALEX FERGUSON, the Manchester United manager, will escape censure from the Football Association over his attempt to approach the referee, Graham Poll, at the end of his team's 2-2 draw with Everton on Wednesday night. A furious Ferguson had to be restrained by Brian Kidd, his assistant.

"We've spoken to the referee and he tells us he has no intention of mentioning the matter in his report," Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said yesterday. "As far as Graham Poll is concerned, he was not involved in a confrontation with Alex Ferguson."

Ferguson was unhappy that Poll had failed to add on enough time to compensate for Everton's time wasting as United fought back in the second half. After the game, Ferguson suggested that football should adopt the same system as American football or rugby league, with an independent timekeeper stopping the clock whenever the ball goes dead. It is, though, questionable whether even that system would encompass Old Trafford's local rule, that play should continue until United score the winner.

Ferguson could also celebrate the news that Roy Keane has signed a new four-year contract, ending speculation about a move to Barcelona. Keane arrived at Old Trafford to watch Wednesday's game and sign the forms 24 hours after a knee operation, which will keep him out for a month. United will lose Philip Neville for a longer period. Neville is having an ankle operation next week and is expected to miss seven FA Cup Premiership and three European Cup Champions' League games.

Ferguson believes Everton could be contenders in the Premiership race. "If they keep Duncan Ferguson fit, they've got a chance, because he is a handful," he said.

Paul Dickov, the Arsenal striker, was last night talking to Manchester City after the London club accepted their offer of £750,000.

Tax inquiry, page 25

Scotland look to new strike force

By Kevin McCarron

SO INCESSANT was the lobbying that Craig Brown might have believed he had wandered into the midst of a political campaign. Even a car park attendant at Old Trafford on Wednesday night wanted to plead Duncan Ferguson's case and, once the Scotland manager reached the plush lounge at the club, he found Everton directors waiting to extol their centre forward.

Ferguson, of course, provided the best character reference of all, blighting Manchester United's defence with the force of some natural disaster and scoring twice. For Brown, who yesterday named the player in his squad for Scotland's opening World Cup qualifier, against Austria in Vienna on August 31, the concerted persuasion was hardly necessary.

Llansantffraid's dream is over

THE part-timers of Llansantffraid, a team made up of students, plumbers and labourers, were unable to emulate Barry, their League of Wales champions, as they crashed out of the European Cup Winners' Cup in Chorizo, Poland, yesterday.

The village team from Mid Wales had been encouraged by Barry's UEFA Cup triumph over Vasutas, of Budapest, on Tuesday, but they lost 5-0 to Ruch Chorzow, going out 6-1 on aggregate to a club that

Brown has spent years waiting for the moment when all the injuries and disciplinary problems would abate, leaving Ferguson as the seasoned figure who is both available to play and worthy of trust. In the interests of accuracy, Brown is prone to reminding enquirers that the player has so far achieved virtually nothing in his career.

The groin injury that required Ferguson to undergo another operation this summer, and forced him to miss the European championship finals, means that he still has five caps and no goals for Scotland, with the last appearance having been made in December, 1994. Yesterday, though, Brown did not have the heart to preach scepticism.

After watching Ferguson's performance in the 2-2 draw, he had, in company with car park attendants, club direc-

SQUAD

T. Boyd (Celtic), C. Burley (Celtic), C. Caldwell (Tottenham Hotspur), J. Collins (AS Monaco), G. Duff (Rangers), D. Ferguson (Everton), K. Gallacher (Blackburn Rovers), S. Gormall (Nottingham Forest), A. Gordon (Rangers), G. Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), D. Jackson (Preston), E. Jess (County City), J. Leighton (Hibernian), G. McAllister (Coventry City), S. McCall (Rangers), A. McLeod (Rangers), T. McInnes (Celtic), W. McInnes (Blackburn Rovers), J. McNamara (Celtic), J. Spencer (Celtic), N. Walker (Aberdeen), D. Whyte (Middlesbrough).

tors and people who just pay to attend football matches, been far too excited for that. "He scored two good goals," Brown said. "His all-round play was excellent and he led the line magnificently with every lay-off finding a teammate."

"Ferguson didn't lose a single header that he could have been expected to win and he was fit enough to go back and help out in defence. After all

the injuries, it's as if we've got a new player." Of course, there is always the glum suspicion that Ferguson will, for some reason, withdraw from the squad.

At the start of a fresh season, though, it is a little easier to keep such brooding thoughts at bay and Brown prefers to reflect on Ferguson's potential to enhance the team. With just one goal at Euro 96, it was the lack of precisely the kind of impact the Everton forward promises that led to Scotland being eliminated at the group stage.

Ferguson was the subject of much discussion because the composition of the squad held little other potential as a topic of conversation, although Brown has exercised his right to call up John Collins, of AS Monaco, so force him to miss his club's match with Cannes next Wednesday.

Of the party taken to the European championship, only two men have been replaced, with Ferguson and Jackie McNamara, of Celtic, coming in for the injured Aberdeen pair, Scott Booth and Stewart McKinnim.

With Ally McCoist having already scored eight goals for Rangers this season, including a hat-trick against Albania Vladikavkaz in the unconvincing 7-2 European Cup victory in Russia on Wednesday, the prospect of his partnership with Ferguson makes it possible, for once, to discuss the Scotland attack without any need for doleful tones.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The next two Refreshers are on the vexed topic of hesitation. It's a subject on which many people have strong but frequently erroneous views. I have misgivings about writing about it, for the same reasons that A.J.P. Taylor decided not to write on the history of Israel — he couldn't bear the thought of answering all those letters.

In an ideal world all players would make every bid and play every card at the same speed. In practice that's not possible, and players of all classes have to stop and consider their plays from time to time. These are the four fundamental points about such hesitations:

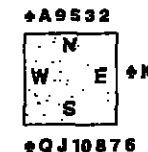
(1) It is not against the rules to pause if you have a genuine problem.

(2) It is against the rules to pause merely to confuse the opposition, or to influence your partner.

(3) It is wrong for a player to use information gained from his partner's hesitation.

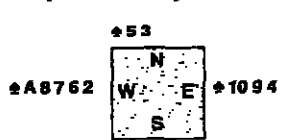
(4) It is quite in order for the opposition to take advantage of a hesitation, using it to make deductions about the hesitator's hand.

The commonest occurrence of violation under point (2) is the defender who hesitates with a singleton:



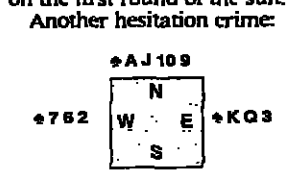
When the declarer (South) leads the queen, it is unethical for West to hesitate before playing the four. If West

hesitates, declarer is entitled to take the view that West was considering covering from K4. These strictures also apply to the declarer. If he has a holding from which the play is automatic, he must play in tempo. For example:



West leads the six against a no-trump contract, and East plays the nine. It is quite wrong for South to consider the matter and then play the queen; this may give West the impression that East has J109. If the six was the opening lead, declarer is allowed to consider the play from dummy at trick one, as he is making a plan about the whole hand. During that period of thought he should also decide which card he is going to play from hand on the first round of the suit.

Another hesitation crime:



When South leads low to the nine, it is unethical of East to think before winning the trick. That would imply he was considering ducking, and therefore did not hold both honours. He should have decided earlier whether he was going to win with a true card (the queen) or a false card (the king).

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TARBET

a. A Turkish hat
b. A neck of land
c. A fish

ULTION

a. Forgiveness
b. Pride
c. Revenge

URAEUS

a. Of urine
b. Hot flushes
c. Model of an asp

TANTADLIN

a. A round tart
b. A nincompoop
c. A medieval coin

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

World challenge

Anatoly Karpov, the Russian veteran, is to challenge the rest of the world in an historic virtual chess match on the Internet next Monday. After every move by Karpov, Internet users will have ten minutes to enter moves against him. A server will select the most frequently proposed move and execute it.

Prodigious play

The 12-year-old prodigy Luke McShane made a fine score in the British Championship at Nottingham. His play has improved by leaps and bounds over the past year and a notable feature of his current style is his increased self-assurance and resilience. Indeed, his results at this age compare most favourably with those of Nigel Short in the same period of his career.

In this game from the recently concluded British Championship, McShane, playing Black, conducts a Sicilian Defence to victory in mature manner.

White: Chris Duncan
Black: Luke McShane
British Championship, Nottingham, 1996

Sicilian Defence

1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 d6
3. d4 cxd4
4. Qxd4 Nc6
5. Bb5 Bd7
6. Bxc6 Bxc6
7. c4 Nf6
8. Nc3 g6
9. 0-0 Bg7
10. Qd3 0-0
11. Nd4 Qc8
12. Bg5 Rfd8

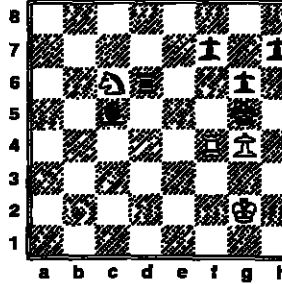
WINNING MOVE

White to play. This position is from the game Seidman — Mrzek, Prague 1936. How did White make the most of his active rooks to force a quick win?

13 Nd5	Bxc5
14 Qxc5	Qb4
15 Rf1d1	Qxc2
16 Rxb1	Qxc3
17 Qxc3	Rxc3
18 Rb7	Nb4
19 Bc3	Ra3
20 Nc6	a5
21 Rxe7	Nc3
22 Rf2	Nxe2
23 Rf4	a4
24 Bf4	Nc3
25 Bxc6	Rf1+
26 Kh2	Ra8
27 Bb6	Bf6
28 d6	Kg7
29 d7	Rb8
30 Nxb8	Bb7
31 Bb8	Bb4
32 Rf3	Rd1
33 Rxc3	Rd7
34 Rf4	Bd2
35 Rf4a4	Rd3
36 g4	Bc3
37 Kg2	Kf6
38 Bf4	Bb5+
39 Kf2	Rd6
40 Rf4+	Kg5

White resigns

Diagram of final position



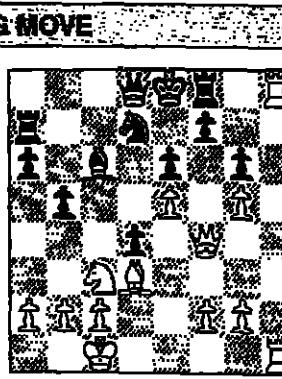
Foxtro international

Scores after six rounds of the Veterans v Women Foxtro International in London are as follows:

VETERANS: Portisch and Smykov 4; Hot 3½; Spassky and Timanov 2½.

WOMEN: Craxie 4; Arakhamia 3½; Xie 2½; Isenhardt 2; Zedra 1½.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



Solution on page 46

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET
Third Cornhill Test match
11.0, second day of five, 90 overs minimum

THE OVAL: England v Pakistan
British Assurance county championship
11.0, second day of four, 104 overs minimum

COLCHESTER: Essex v Gloucestershire
GLoucestershire: Glamorgan v Kent
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Hampshire

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Sussex
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Surrey

WOLVERHAMPTON: Worcestershire v Warwickshire
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Lancashire
11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum

WESTON-SUPER-MARE: Somerset v Durham
THIRD UNDER-19 TEST MATCH: Howe (second day of four) England v New Zealand

RUGBY UNION
CLUB MATCHES: Gloucester v Pontypool (7.30); Melrose v Newcastle (6.30).

FOOTBALL
Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
denotes all-league

Nationwide League
First division
Preston v QPR (7.45)
Tranmere v Grimsby (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League
Third division
East Stirling v Albion

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE First division: Inverness v O.N. Cheneck, Sharnbrook v Ramsey, Whitworth v Higham

RUGBY LEAGUE
Second division
York v Bramley (7.30)

OTHER SPORT
CYCLING: International track meeting (Herts Hill, 6.30)
GOLF: British women's amateur strokeplay championship (at Cornhill)

SPEEDWAYS: Premier League: Oxford v Reading (7.30); Speedway Star Cup: Quorn v Nines, second leg: Belle Vue v Wolverhampton (7.30); Peterborough v London (7.30); Conference League: Arena Essex v Swindon (8.0)

BOWLS

Champions lose out

ANDREW WILLS, Simon Jones and Tony Alcock, of Cheltenham, the title-holders, were knocked out of the English Bowling Association triples championship at Worthing yesterday (Gordon Allan writes).

Dave Broadhurst, Simon Lilley and Phil Cooke, of the Royal Mail Cart Club, Spalding, won their second-round match 16-14, scoring five shots on the last end for a victory they will not forget for a long while.

Going into the decider 1-11 down, the Lincolnshire side got woods in the head, with Broadhurst trailing the jack.

Lilley playing Cheltenham's second shot out of contention for three and Cooke putting another on top of the jack. Alcock, trying to draw his way out of trouble, prodded in a fifth opposition bowl and ran past with his final attempt to save the situation.

Alcock, the world singles champion, returns next week for the pairs and singles. Another member of England's world championships team, Brett Morley, of GPT, Nottingham, skipped his triples partners to two impressive wins, 35-6 over Stratford upon Avon and 20-13 over Broadway (Worcestershire).

FOOTBALL: ENGLAND MANAGER REVEALS ALL AND NOTHING TO EXPECTANT PRESS CONFERENCE

Hoddle sets out across the minefield

ANDREW LONGMORE



on the new man at England's helm

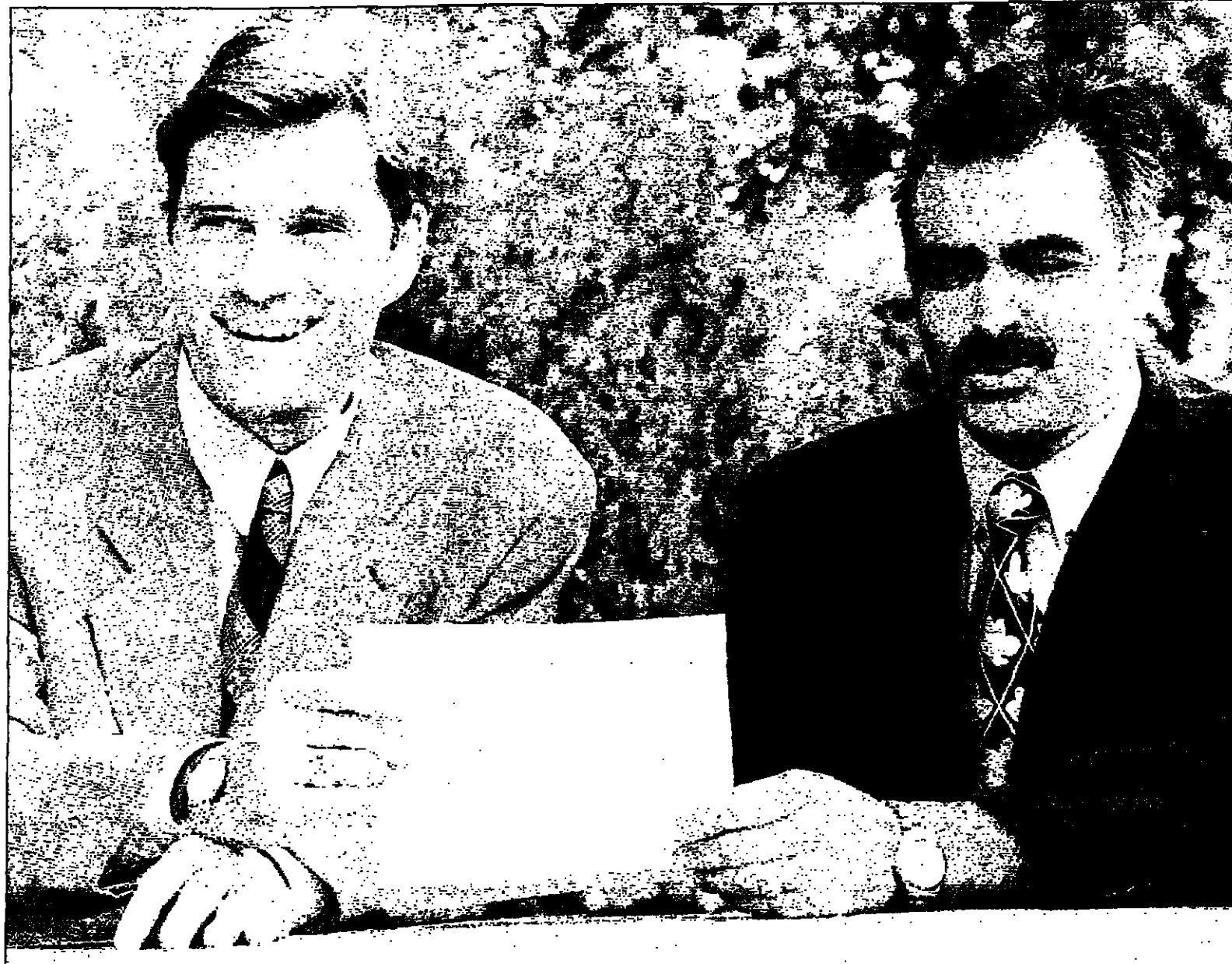
Glenn Hoddle measured his words with the precision of his trademark long pass. "Yes and no," he said. The question was about Le Tissier and his resemblance to Hoddle. You know the sort of thing, gifted but idle. Hoddle knew the minefield he was treading.

Give too much and Le Tissier will be pasted to his masthead forever; give too little and the negativity might be set in stone. Yes, Hoddle said, he had always been a fan of Le Tissier's, no he was not guaranteeing a place in the squad. He just wanted to see how Le Tissier's mind works and he could only do that by bringing him into the squad. Everyone seemed happy.

Nobody will need to tell Hoddle, pristine in his grey check suit and smart tie, that two jobs come with the territory of national team manager. One is to win football matches; the other is to explain himself to the press. The first will be easier. The second, as Terry Venables and Graham Taylor, his predecessors, proved in their different ways.

One of Hoddle's concerns when he accepted what Taylor called the "impossible job" was his handling of the press, not a task that comes naturally to him. Euro 96 will have eased his fears. The job looks possible again. Even honourable defeat is acceptable, provided everyone can sing along with Skinner and Baddiel in the knowledge that their team will not disgrace themselves.

How long the honeymoon will last depends on what happens next. With a nice touch of irony, Hoddle's first



Hoddle and John Gorman, his assistant, right, unveil their first England squad yesterday. Photograph: Simon Walker

press conference in Kishinev, where England play their opening World Cup qualifying match on September 1, is scheduled for Friendship Hall, not necessarily the obvious venue for a meeting of manager and press.

Hoddle, at least, starts with an advantage. Unlike Venables, there are no factions, no prejudice or bias, no stories to tell or axes to grind. That is partly down to Hoddle, who kept himself to himself as a player and is likely to do so again as England manager.

No one in the press can truly say they know Hoddle well. How many people in the game, for that matter? His

mind is independent, his thoughts will be shared with everyone or no one. There will be no cosy dinners for favoured courtiers, no taking of sides or pushing of angles. Everyone will be treated the same, at arm's length. But there is some other quality to Hoddle that marks him out from his predecessors. Space, you could call it.

Hoddle played so much of his football in a little bubble of space, it seemed defenders were frightened of invading it, as if they would be violating something unknown and precious. Hoddle has maintained that aloofness as a manager. It is difficult to pinpoint — the

inflection of the voice, the slight unintended arrogance, a flick of an eyebrow that says "look, I know what I'm doing and you don't" and which is as effective an antidote to inquisitors as the more abrasive "and who the hell are you?" approach of Alex Ferguson.

There was not much need for the putdown yesterday when Hoddle unveiled his first England squad, but the little bubble visible. A sidestep here, a shimmy there and, presto, empty space. A doff of the cap to the previous regime, but enough new cloth to suggest a different tailor. Le Tissier, Venables's *bête noire*,

and David Beckham, both Hoddle imitators in their way, both stamped with designer labels. And then Batty, most decidedly off the peg, another Venables cast-off, but equally fashioned by Hoddle, the sort of snappy little player who had no respect for space.

It was no more than a gentle warm-up. Only time and defeat will tell what sort of defence mechanism Hoddle has. He has a feel for union-speak — "at the end of the day", "at this moment in time". He has not yet been tested. Perhaps he never will be. The balance may have changed irrevocably.

Hoddle needs to succeed to

satisfy his pride, not to pay the mortgage. If his pride is hurt too badly, his life rearranged, his priorities threatened, he has the means to say "thank you" and go elsewhere. Out of football, if necessary.

With a touch of luck and good judgment, it will not come down to that. Hoddle might well prove a tougher manager than player, thick-skinned enough to stay in the kitchen when the heat is on. It will not have escaped his notice, though, that the room next to his first press conference was occupied by the Nationwide Fire Services.

Dalglish's farewell, page 45

Sweet secret of success

Over the Counter. Radio 4, 12.25pm.

Take my word for it, there's been no more mouth-watering programme on Radio 4 this week. Meg Rivers makes cakes, serves them in her tearoom in Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire, and mails the rest to customers here, there, and everywhere. Thirty varieties of cakes she bakes. Everything from Sailing Cake — made with rum and with a hole in the middle to make easier cutting and stop crumbs cascading into the bilges — to Cricket Cake, which, for some unexplained reason, is made of oranges. (Jingo). Interviewer Oliver (again no explanation) and Rugby Club (ditto). Meg Rivers, she keeps them locked up in her safe. We'll just have to go to Middle Tysoe and try for ourselves.

Survivors: Mala's Story. Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

In dramatic contrast with his earlier programmes, John Man's latest case history is not about physical survival but the survival of personality. "I wondered," says Mala, Kenya-born daughter of an Indian parent, "whether I existed". Aged three, she developed a nasal tumour. Instead of a nose, there was a scarred crater. It not only changed her face but redefined her relationship with everyone around her. Thirty operations in Kenya and 15 in Britain did nothing to reverse what she calls her "differentness". Remarkably, this highly intelligent woman does not utter one bitter word. Peter Davall

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am Dave Pearce 9.00 Simon Mayo 11.30am Radio 1 Roadshow. Live from Terry 12.00pm Lisa 1.00pm 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00pm Clive Warren 7.00pm Essential Selection, with Pete Tong 10.00pm One in the Jungle 12.00pm Radio 1 Rap Show 3.00pm Annie Nightingale 5.00pm Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30am Wake Up to Wogan 9.30am Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00pm Ed Stewart 5.00pm John Dunn 7.00pm The Comedy Quiz 7.30pm Friday Night is Music Night. From the Hippodrome in London. Green With the BBC Concert Orchestra under Mark Yates 8.45pm Every Living Thing 9.00pm Listen to the Band 10.00pm Worcester Three Chords 10.00pm Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.00pm 5.00pm

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00pm The Breakfast Programme 6.30pm The Magazine 12.00pm Midday with Mail, incl 12.30pm Moneyweek 2.00pm Rescue on Five 4.00pm Nationwide, incl at 5.45pm Entertainment News 7.00pm News Extra, with Valerie Sanderson 7.30pm Friday Sport, with Peter Dinkley. Football coverage of Portsmouth v QPR, Aberdeen: the Brussels Grand Prix; Cricket: day two of the third Test between England and Pakistan; Motor racing: news from the British Grand Prix; 11.00pm Night Extra 12.00am After Hours 2.00pm All Night, with Rhod Sharp

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MOTOR RACING 41

Hill stalled by questions of his starting technique

SPORT

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RACING 42-43

Newmarket trainer earns first group one win at York



Hoddle gives Le Tissier his chance



Le Tissier: player seen either as lazy or a genius

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE recall of Matthew Le Tissier and the introduction of David Beckham are without doubt the most eloquent statements of intent in the first England squad named by Glenn Hoddle yesterday.

When he delivered the names of his chosen 22 players for the World Cup qualifying game against Moldova in Kishinev on September 1, Hoddle demonstrated that, while he is not foolish enough to tear apart the Euro 96 semi-final team, neither will he rest on his laurels.

Le Tissier, of Southampton, is an enigma to the country: half the critics see him as lazy, the other half as some kind of divine genius. David Beckham, born and raised in East London, but yet another product of Alex Ferguson's youth mill at Manchester Uni-

ted, is at the other end of the scale: a 21-year-old whose goal from the halfway line against Wimbledon last weekend aroused every football watcher, just as Beckham had caught the eye of Hoddle at a youth tournament in Toulon.

"The boy's got immense talent, he's shown that to everyone," Hoddle, the new England coach, said yesterday. "In international football you need very, very high technical players, that's what I'm looking for." Had Hoddle used those words about young Beckham, he might just have got away with it. But no, "the boy" in question is Le Tissier, who will be 28 in October.

Hoddle does not promise that, by then, Le Tissier will have started his third full game for his country. Beckham may do so instead, for Hoddle is a fan of the Manchester United player's early maturity, a follower of

his skills before they came into fashion and of the opinion that, just as Pelé, Maradona, Kluitert and even Gary Neville have proven, if a player is gifted enough, inexperience is no excuse not to trust him.

And yet, there is an irresistible mirror image between Le Tissier and Hoddle. Could the England coach see some of the frustrations of his own prime, when managers adored his touch but so seldom invited him to express it, in the Southampton player? "Some of it, yes, some of it, no," Hoddle responded. "Matthew's in the squad because we felt we needed to have a chat, we need to work with him... you know the best way of talking to footballers is to get out a ball and train with them."

It is interesting the way Hoddle's eyes become more expressive simply at the mention of the training field. His

SQUAD

D Seaman (Arsenal), I Walker (Tottenham Hotspur), D James (Liverpool), G Neville (Manchester United), S Pearce (Nottingham Forest), G Pallister (Manchester United), S Howey (Newcastle United), G Southgate (Nottingham Forest), S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur), P Gascoigne (Rangers), P Ince (Ipswich Town), S McManis (Liverpool), M Le Tissier (Southampton), D Beckham (Manchester United), S Stone (Nottingham Forest), N Barmby (Middlesbrough), D Anderson (Tottenham Hotspur), E Sheeringham (Tottenham Hotspur), A Shearer (Newcastle United), L Ferdinand (Newcastle United), R Fowler (Liverpool).

rise to England coach is a symbol of how the game, at home as well as abroad, can be viewed. It must have vision, must embrace players who can caress and cajole the football, not merely those who can thump it, and one another.

Terry Venables turned England partially away from that path. Hoddle, results willing,

will complete the job of asking England's finest to lift their heads, use their vision, show that Paul Gascoigne (who, Hoddle expects to be fit after Achilles tendon surgery) is not a solitary visionary.

Even David Batty, who is no saint, chipped a goal from 40 yards for Newcastle United on Wednesday. Batty, who was discarded by Venables, is recalled by Hoddle. "David's got a better quality of passing than people give him credit for," Hoddle said. "That's added to the bite that he's got."

Only one player of the Euro 96 squad is actually dropped. Tim Flowers, gone but not forgotten, Hoddle promises, is replaced by David James, the Liverpool goalkeeper.

Time is Hoddle's immediate enemy. He has had to select individuals who, given barely a month's respite, have been re-immersed in the sometimes destructive cavalry charge of

the FA Carling Premiership for only two games. Some are already injured — notably Tony Adams, Jamie Redknapp and David Platt.

Yesterday, Philip Neville, the Manchester United left back, learnt that his ankle injury requires surgery, compounding long-term injuries to Graeme Le Saux and to Jason Wilcox, and giving Hoddle exactly the same dilemma of no natural left-sided player faced by his predecessor.

But Hoddle, as he should, emphasises the positive. He praises Gareth Southgate's attitude since his return to action after the missed penalty that ended England's European championship hopes. Hoddle personally persuaded Stuart Pearce to abandon his own declared retirement, stating yesterday: "Pearce had a successful championship. He has vast experience, he is definitely an option I want to

keep. The example of Italy, losing [Franco] Baresi and then finding they couldn't replace him, is very much in my mind."

We know, for the moment, half what is in that mind. Hoddle has chosen a squad, not yet a team. "I'm aware that the first priority is three points in Moldova, and after watching them in Turkey last week, I think they have a few players better than the last time I saw them. But the group as a whole — Moldova, Georgia, Poland and Italy — is the strongest in the World Cup qualifying. That makes it a hell of a challenge."

And with that, the coach who admits he has been playing "fantasy league" football all summer long departed for the training ground, where talk comes more naturally.

Andrew Longmore, page 46
Dalglish enigma, page 45

Odd dismissals in Oval Test

Crawley stands in breach as England falter

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE OVAL (first day of five: England won toss; England have scored 278 for six wickets against Pakistan)

JOHN CRAWLEY arrived in Test cricket as if by destiny and then spent two years confronting failure and frustration. Yesterday, while the rest of the England batsmen indulged in a competition for the most curious dismissal, he delivered the innings long expected of him.

It was as well that he did. On a day when England needed to impose their authority on this decisive final Cornhill Test, and when winning the toss gave them the opportunity to do so, a series of misjudgments undermined them. England need a minimum of 450 to control this game and they are now unlikely to get close. Pakistan,

however, will feel they can win.

The way the wickets fell was uniformly baffling. Alec Stewart was bowled flicking carelessly across a leg break. Nasser Hussain offered gentle slip-catching practice and Michael Atherton was bowled behind his legs. The best batting of the day ensued, before Graham Thorpe was leg-before, playing a stroke so crooked he will have winced at the slow-motion replay, and Nick Knight was bowled trying to withdraw his bat.

At Headingley a fortnight ago, it was indiscipline bowling on the opening day that cost England any chance of an equalising victory. They may look back on their batting yesterday as a comparable missed opportunity but, if this transpires, Crawley, six short of a maiden Test century

overnight, will be exempt from blame.

His England career has been a faltering, tottering process. His technique was exposed against South Africa, his athleticism was questioned in Australia and his fitness let him down cruelly in Durban last winter. But when another chance came, at Leeds, he batted with the urgent authority of one making up for lost time. If England had sacrificed a batsman instead of a wicketkeeper to accommodate five bowlers here, he might not have played. At least the selectors can reflect with satisfaction on this part of their equation.

Whether Raymond Illingworth and his panel have much else to feel smug about is debatable. The selection puzzle was compounded before play when the man omitted was neither Lewis nor Croft but Andy Caddick, comfortably the best of a disappointing seam attack at Headingley. As Caddick depends for his effectiveness on bounce, which is more evident at the Oval than any other English ground, this ranked among the most unfathomable decisions of the summer.

Doubts over his full fitness — he missed Somerset's last match — apparently played a part but there is also a theory that Lewis will respond to this opportunity because he knows it will not come again if he fails. Such threats have not stimulated him in the past. Atherton was soon in distress when Wasim hit him on the right shoulder in his second over. This, however, was an isolated incident on a pitch far from intimidatingly quick. Waqar experimented with some short stuff but Stewart, on home territory, pulled hungrily and well.

He had made 44 out of 64 when Mushtaq was summoned and over-confidence



Atherton looks on as Mushtaq leads the celebrations after breaking the England opening partnership by bowling Stewart for 44

intervened. Stewart's stroke was frivolous and his reaction, as the ball passed the inside edge to bowl him, was graphic. He stood rooted to the spot, unable to credit what had happened.

Hussain never settled and, when Waqar obtained some steeper bounce, he opened the face of the bat fatally, deflecting a comfortable catch to

second slip. Atherton, who had already been dropped by Mujtaba at short square-leg off one bawled pull, missed with another, ugly attempt and then survived a confident leg-before appeal from a roused Waqar, who got his man in the third over of the afternoon as Atherton moved too far across his crease.

Crawley then joined Thorpe

in a partnership of 89, decorated with strokes of high pedigree. Thorpe always likes to be forthright, especially when the ball is coming truly onto the bat, but Crawley played with such instant fluency that he upstaged him, driving the fast bowlers with sweet timing and playing Mushtaq's wrist-spin with quiet certainty.

Thorpe's twentieth score above 50 for England did not even threaten to become only his third century and Knight, having leached Mushtaq from outside off stump for an audacious six over mid-wicket, perished unluckily.

Lewis's privileges extended to batting ahead of Croft but he did not make the most of it, getting in a terrible tangle as Wasim went round the wicket to angle the ball in. Crawley, four hours into his long-standing date with a Test century, needs to turn it into something very substantial.

Michael Henderson, page 44
County scoreboards, page 44

OVAL SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First Innings: 278 (Crawley 50, 5-348 (Crawley 73, 6-273 (Crawley 83))
BOWLING: Wasim Akram 25-8-61-1 rlb 5-3-5-2, 4-1-17-0, 7-1-20-0, 4-1-7-0, 5-2-3-1, Waqar Younis 20-6-70-2 (5-1-28-0, 7-1-25-2, 5-3-10-0, 3-1-3-0), Mubinnur Alam 18-1-41-1 (lb 2, w 1, 3-0-18-0, 2-0-4-0, 7-1-15-1), Mushtaq Ahmed 27-5-78-2 (13-4-45-1, 1-1-32-1), Asim Shah 5-1-7-0 (1-0-7-0, 5-1-10-0).

PAKISTAN: Asim Shah, Saad Awar, Iqbal Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Salim Malik, Asif Mujtaba, Wasim Akram, Imran Khan, Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis and Mohammad Aslam.
Umpires: B C Cooney (Sri Lanka) and M J Kitchen. Third umpire: J C Subasinghe. Match referee: P L van der Merwe.
SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Lord's) Pakistan won by 164 runs. Second Test (Headingley): Match drawn.
Compiled by Bill Frindall

Sussex turn their back on Giddins

By ALAN LEE

SUSSEX turned their back on trouble yesterday, cutting all ties with Ed Giddins, their suspended drugs offender. In a predictable development to a regrettable saga, Giddins was informed that he has no future at the club he joined straight from school in 1990.

The Sussex committee had two options after the 19-month suspension imposed by the Test and County Cricket Board on the maverick fast bowler. Either it supported him through the ban, encouraging him to resume his career, or it abandoned him. It was no surprise at all that it chose the easy option.

A careful statement attempted to sugar the pill, insisting that this was not a disciplinary measure and that it was felt to be "in the best

interests of the club and player if a clean break were made", but the brutal truth is that Sussex were impatient to unload a player who had become difficult to handle.

Giddins will be free to join another county for the 1998 season, if he can maintain fitness and enthusiasm that long. In the meantime, he is sifting sadly predictable offers from tabloid newspapers for the spicier stories of his life and, no doubt, seeking the help and guidance that Sussex were unprepared to give.

Sussex will be announcing their full retained list next week and are busily distancing themselves from reports that Ian Salisbury and Martin Speight are keen to leave. There is substance to the rumours, however, and if this talented pair do join Giddins in departing the county, Hove

will be a much less interesting place to be next year.

Meanwhile, Warwickshire's lingering hopes of retaining the county championship pennant for a third year have received a severe setback with the news that



Giddins: tabloid offers

Shaun Pollock is playing his last match for them. He will return to South Africa next Tuesday for surgery on the injured left ankle that has troubled him intermittently all summer.

Pollock, 23, underwent scans on the ankle last week. Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, took the results home with him this week and Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, has now contacted Warwickshire to arrange for Pollock's immediate return.

The club's request that he should remain for one further championship game was refused. South Africa plainly fears for Pollock's recovery before they begin an intensive programme of nine Tests and more than 20 one-day internationals this winter.

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- Irregular area, piece (5)
 - Fissure (glacier) (8)
 - Actors of play: shape in mould (4)
 - Tactful (8)
 - Shortening (6)
 - Pleasant smell, taste (6)
 - Animal shed: firm (6)
 - Emphasis; strain (6)
 - Intense, ardent (8)
 - Customer-owned shop (2-2): hen pen (4)
 - Successor to Augustus (8)
 - Shoddy: making metallic sound: Aussie beer can (5)
- DOWN**
- Rub sharply: position of trouble (6)
 - Temperament, courage (6)
 - Outlaw (6)
 - Strong inclination (8)
 - Boringly annoying (8)
 - One seeking quarry: a watch (6)
 - Tom Brown bully (8)
 - Disaster (8)
 - Learned man (6)
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 - Shrink, bounce back (6)
 - Liverpool dialect, stew (6)

The solution to 867 will be published Wednesday, August 28

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President's philosophy is light read

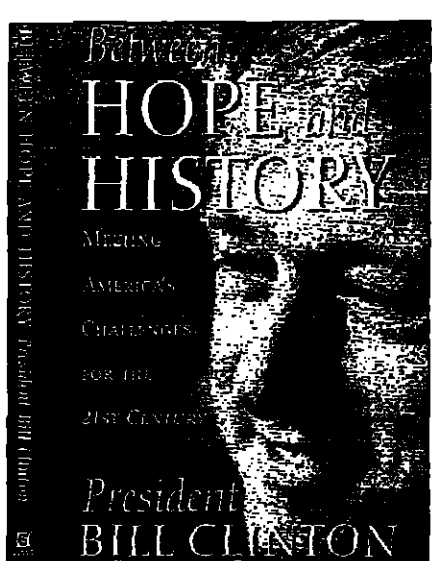
By TOM RHODES

THE work of a ghostwriter, massaged by the White House and published under President Clinton's name arrived in bookstores throughout America yesterday to a distinctly lukewarm reception.

Little more than a compendium of Mr Clinton's speeches over the past two years, *Between Hope and History* offers no autobiographical reflection, no agenda for a second term and no mention of the various scandals that have plagued his presidency. His peace initiatives in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and the Middle East, once heralded as ground-breaking achievements, are given hardly a page in the light of recent events. Only the title, taken from a poem by Seamus Heaney, is set in the context of Mr Clinton's visit to Ireland last year.

Instead, the slim volume merely recites favourite themes, compares his tenure to that of the Progressive Era presidents, Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, and offers an explicitly partisan argument about why Mr Clinton believes he has been a success.

The White House, which kept the publication a secret until last week, has gone to great lengths to insist it is not a political manifesto but a statement of the



Book reveals little about President

President's philosophy — it is subtitled *Meeting America's Challenges for the 21st Century* — centred upon the three themes of opportunity, responsibility and community. Appearing just days before the Democratic Convention, however, the book barely disguises the issues he hopes will dominate both the event in Chicago and the subsequent presidential election campaign. Without mentioning Bob Dole, his rival, by name, Mr Clinton also lambasts the idea of an across-the-board tax cut that would either explode the deficit or lead to stringent cuts in health programmes. "Mine is truly a progressive vision of the future," he concludes in contrast to the Republican "you're on your own America".

Clinton moves swiftly in tobacco crackdown

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON will approve as early as today the toughest crackdown on the tobacco industry since the US Surgeon General officially linked smoking and lung cancer in 1964.

In a move riddled with election-year politics, Mr Clinton will sign an executive order giving the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the power to regulate the industry by classifying tobacco as a drug. He will also approve a battery of proposed FDA rules curbing its promotion and sale to teenagers.

Polls suggest the President's announcement will be popular everywhere except in the half-dozen southern states that grow tobacco, and even there Mr Clinton has remained very competitive since he began seriously to challenge the powerful tobacco lobby in 1995. It will strengthen his claim to be a champion of family values as his re-election campaign moves into top gear before

next week's Democratic convention in Chicago.

It will also embarrass Bob Dole who has publicly questioned whether nicotine is addictive, and whose party has received many more donations from the tobacco industry than have the Democrats. The Republican presidential nominee moved swiftly to declare his support for restrictions on teenage smoking yesterday and denounced the President's impending announcement as a "campaign gimmick".

Haley Barbour, the Republican Party chairman, referred to Tuesday's government report revealing a doubling of teenage drug use since 1992 and called Mr Clinton's move a "transparent, cynical effort to change the subject away from his Administration's abysmal record on drug enforcement".

The proposed FDA regulations have certainly sped through the White House ap-

proval process, with the budget office taking barely a week to review them instead of the 90 days permitted. They are expected to shadow closely those Mr Clinton suggested last year. They include a ban on cigarette vending machines, restrictions on advertising at sporting events, in magazines with young readerships or near schools, and a requirement that tobacco companies fund a \$150 million (£97 million) anti-smoking advertising campaign.

The tobacco industry is already being sued by 11 states for the costs of treating smoking-related illnesses, and its stock prices fell sharply on news of Mr Clinton's imminent announcement. It has filed a lawsuit challenging the FDA's authority to regulate the industry.

Tobacco foes, who contend that smoking kills 400,000 Americans a year, hailed as a milestone Mr Clinton's move against what they describe as

the most dangerous but least regulated product on the market. Everett Koop, former Surgeon General, called it "the first serious effort we've made as a country to do something about juvenile smoking".

Jesse Helms, North Carolina's Republican senator, said Mr Clinton had "declared war on 76,000 North Carolinians who gain their livelihood in one form or another from tobacco". Some Democrats from tobacco-growing states joined the criticism.

Mr Clinton, who lives in a smoke-free White House but occasionally smokes a cigar, writes in his book, *Between Hope and History*, published yesterday: "The tobacco industry has no right to peddle cigarettes to children or encourage them directly or indirectly to smoke. It is immoral."

BAT shares hit, page 25
Giants feel heat, page 29



Police show headless body of family python

Mother's murderer demands execution

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

A FLORIDA man convicted of killing his mother has told a court that he wants to be sent to the electric chair.

Edward Gryzcan, 49, told a Fort Lauderdale court this week that he was "hell-bent" on being executed. After dismissing his lawyer, he was due to make his closing arguments to the jurors late yesterday.

The jury found him guilty in April of killing his mother, Corrine Johnson, in 1993 by breaking her neck, stabbing her in the chest five times, slitting her throat and then placing a rubbish bag over her head. He then sat with her body for 11 days.

Despite a history of mental illness and cocaine addiction, he has rejected all mitigating arguments. Under Florida law, mental condition is often not grounds for leniency.

William Laswell, the sacked defence lawyer, protested against Judge Paul Backman's decision to allow Mr Gryzcan to represent himself. "We've just tried to impose a logical legal system on a guy who's mentally ill," he said.

Britons in tight squeeze with pet

FROM REUTER IN SAN DIEGO

A NINE-FOOT Burmese python bit a pregnant British woman in a San Diego hotel room, then wrapped itself around her and her husband before rescuers beheaded the family pet, police said.

The English couple allowed the three-year-old python — their family pet for the past two months — to slither on to the hotel bed on Wednesday morning.

"The python bit the woman on the thumb and on the butt and then wrapped itself around her," San Diego police said.

The couple's two young children had watched as their father stabbed the python with a pen-knife in an attempt to free their mother, who is eight months pregnant, but the snake coiled itself around his arm. He had managed to call the police who used a small hacksaw to cut off the python's head. The woman was not hurt.

Police said the python had been fed a large guinea-pig two days before, so it was probably not looking for food when it attacked.

Democrats decry welfare Bill as betrayal of poor

By MARTIN FLETCHER

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday launched a huge experiment in American social policy by signing legislation fulfilling his 1992 campaign pledge to "end welfare as we know it".

At a televised Rose Garden ceremony boycotted by several senior Democrats, Mr Clinton signed a Republican-inspired Bill that ends a 60-year-old guarantee of federal aid to the poor, returns responsibility for welfare to the states, and limits how long any able-bodied American can receive welfare.

Mr Clinton's action provoked bitter protests from his own supporters that could well spill over into next week's Democratic convention in Chicago, but the President insisted the Bill, while imperfect, would help millions of people to escape from the welfare trap. It was a "historic opportunity to make welfare what it was meant to be — a second chance not a way of life". Mr Clinton called the Bill a beginning and pledged to try to remedy its defects.

In signing the Bill Mr Clinton not only fulfilled one of his principal campaign promises, but also bolstered his centrist "New Democrat" credentials and robbed Bob Dole, his Republican challenger, of a potent campaign issue. However, there may well be a price to pay.

There were angry demonstrations outside the White House after the ceremony. Chris Dodd, the Democratic Party chairman who will formally propose Mr Clinton as the 1996 presidential nominee, called the signing "an incredibly black mark".

Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund who used to be

one of the Clintons' closest friends, said Mr Clinton's action was a "moment of shame" and a "betrayal of children and the poor".

White House officials have been urgently seeking ways to assuage these critics, and Mr Clinton is expected shortly to announce tax incentives for businesses to employ welfare recipients. He has also granted several states permission to waive some of the Bill's toughest requirements.

Ultimately Mr Clinton is being that his liberal critics will rally behind him because Newt Gingrich and his fellow Republicans pose a much greater threat to the social safety net.

Under the Bill, Washington will give each state a block grant for welfare which it will be free to use as it sees fit within certain parameters. Those include a lifetime limit of five years for welfare assistance and require able-bodied adults to find work within two years. Unmarried teenage mothers will have to stay at home and attend school to receive benefits and legal immigrants would also be denied most welfare benefits. So would convicted drug dealers. Poor but childless adults would lose their right to food stamps after three months.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY AUGUST 23 1996

OVERSEAS NEWS 15

"This is a national failure. If we cannot look after our children, then what kind of people are we?"

Horrificed nation buries victims of paedophile ring

BELGIUM swallowed its anger yesterday and mourned and buried two eight-year-old girls starved to death by a paedophile gang whose activities have prompted an international search for other missing children.

Church bells rang out, sirens sounded and newspapers were edged in black. More than 100,000 people lined the route from the home village of the children, Grise-Hollogne, to St Martin's Basilica in Liège where the two white coffins were laid in front of the altar.

In barely a week Belgium has passed through several strong emotions. There was jubilation when two other missing girls, a 12-year-old and a 14-year-old, were found alive in an improvised basement prison. The joy faded quickly, however, when it was discovered that they had been sexually abused by their captors. Then came the unearthing last weekend of the two corpses. The girls, Mélissa Russo and Julie Lejeune, had been trussed, stuffed into plastic bags and buried 10ft deep in the backyard of a house belonging to Marc Dutroux, the chief suspect in the paedophile scandal.

The horror turned to anger: at the police for conducting a sloppy investigation, at the judicial system for letting a previously convicted, aggressive paedophile like Dutroux slip through the net and the Government for not getting



Two young girls, starved to death by a gang whose sex crimes have stunned Belgium, were buried yesterday. Roger Boyes writes

tougher on sex crimes. Every bar in Belgium has a loud advocate of lynching paedophiles and the country is in a state of surly revolt.

The passionate intensity yesterday gave way to sheer exhaustion. "A tragedy like this is a national failure," said a university lecturer outside the basilica. "If we cannot look after our children, then what kind of people are we? This is the most fundamental thing."

Stefaan de Clerck, the Minister of Justice, was in the packed congregation, with child rights activists, families of still missing children and the parents and brothers of the murdered girls. The parents, who felt they were not given enough support from the Royal Family, discouraged the palace from sending an emissary to the service. Instead, black wreaths arrived from King Albert and Queen Paola. Jean Denis Lejeune, Julie's father, seemed to put more value on a wreath — one of 5,000 sent in recent days — sent by a group of prisoners who had clubbed together to buy the flowers. M Lejeune personally thanked the convicts.

The two girls were neigh-

bours and in the 14 months of search the families have grown closer; both mothers yesterday wore white and seemed to be more composed than their husbands. Together the families launched a nationwide hunt with posters declaring "Julie and Mélissa SOS" and carrying a contact telephone number.

They received hundreds of tip-offs and even travelled to South America on what seemed to be a reliable lead. The Belgian police urged them after a fruitless hunt to accept the inevitability of the death of their children; yet at the time the advice was given the girls were still alive, locked up in the tiny concrete cellar in one of Dutroux's many homes.

The funeral yesterday was televised live throughout Belgium. The Netherlands and Luxembourg, and repeated throughout the day. *One newspaper, La Dernière Heure*, had an entirely black front page. A minute of silence was observed throughout the country. Later, fire stations sounded their sirens.

Belgians put black crepe in their windows or attached black ribbons to their car antennas. Candles were put on doorsteps, flags were at half mast. Liège, a smoky industrial city that rarely stops work for anything, came to a standstill; most shops were shuttered. Not since the death of King Baudouin has there been such public mourning.

The deepest reaction was in the steel town of Charleroi where the paedophile gang seems to have concentrated much of its activities. It is a town crisscrossed by straight, narrow streets of terraced houses, but it is also full of poignant reminders of childhood: a life-size statue of Lucky Luke, a comic strip cowboy; a toy factory; a monument to a ten-year-old girl killed by the Germans. A place



A line of funeral cars snakes its way through the streets of Liège yesterday, heading for the funeral in St Martin's Basilica.

apparently so concerned with children was the site of horrific crimes against children; the shame sits deep. Yesterday the steelworkers of Charleroi laid down their tools and some overcome their inhibitions and knelt down to pray. So many flowers and wreaths have been sent from

throughout the world — including some from Britain — that a fire engine had to be included in the cortege to help in transporting the tributes. Many wreaths had teddy bears or children's cuddly toys attached.

The 90-minute service in the basilica tried to combine tradi-

tional elements of a funeral Mass with pop songs enjoyed by the two dead girls. But as the songs became chirpier and more optimistic, so the parents began to lose their composure. As an eight-year-old treble sang *For The Children Of The Whole World*, Julie's father crumpled, holding his hand

over his ears, bowing his head and letting the tears drop to the floor.
[Brussels: Police seized pornographic videos from Dutroux's home, showing him sexually abusing victims. *Le Soir* reported yesterday. Other adults are also featured in some of the videos. (AFP)]

Religious cult link to child sex trade

By Roger Boyes

A MYSTERIOUS cult known as the Celestian Church of Christ which reportedly has its European headquarters in London, may hold a key to the paedophile scandal which has wracked Belgium.

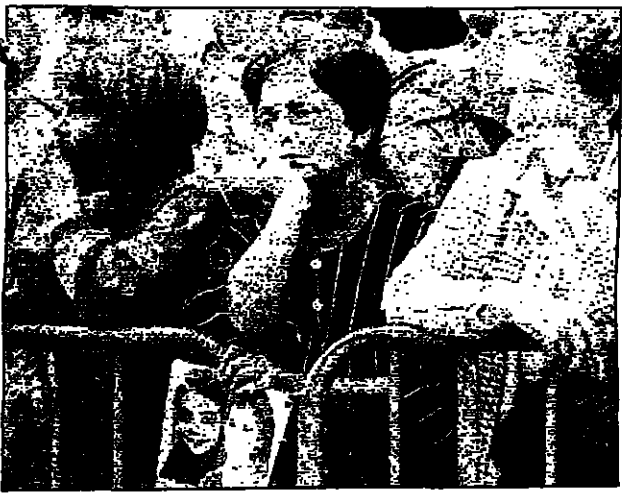
One of the four men charged in the affair is Jean-Michel Nihoul, a Brussels estate agent. He and his female companion, Annie Bouty, a retired barrister live in a house owned by the Celestian Church of Christ. Moreover, the telephone number of the church is identical to that of Ms Bouty.

This has prompted press speculation — notably in *La Dernière Heure* — that the church is more than merely the landlord of a criminal suspect. Yet very little is known about the cult. It appears to have a mainly Nigerian origin. The four directors of the church's registered company in Belgium are all Nigerian or of Nigerian origin, and include a British citizen of Nigerian birth, Ossai Utugbe Kenneth, who lives in Anderlecht.

There is no indication that the church is holding religious services or conducting spiritual work, however. It owns seven properties in Brussels — including the one used by Nihoul — as well as two houses in Jette, one in Anderlecht and property in three other Belgian towns.

The Belgian security service, which describes the church as a "very small sect", has discovered that its European headquarters is in London and it has a web of international branches. The statutes of the church's registered company yield little information: the company's aim is to implement the principles of the doctrine of the followers of the Celestian Christian Movement.

So far there is nothing to indicate a direct connection between the church and the paedophile group. But Belgian police are so bewildered by the possibility of an international paedophile network that they are now unwilling to ignore any foreign lead, and are increasingly looking for traces of items that could have been used in some form of ritual killing.



Mourners listen to the service relayed from the church

Germany jails US neo-Nazi

FROM PETER BILD IN BONN

GARY LAUCK, the American neo-Nazi, was jailed for four years yesterday by a Hamburg court after he was found guilty of spreading banned Nazi propaganda, instigating racial hatred and using the swastika symbol on material sent through the German mail.

Lauck yelled a tirade of abuse at the court after his conviction and shouted "the struggle will go on" as he was led away.

Lauck, thought to be the prime source of Nazi newsletters, pamphlets and other

propaganda circulating in Germany, has boasted that he first read Hitler's *Mein Kampf* when he was 13. How much of his sentence he actually serves — the prosecution demanded five years — will also take account of the time that he has already spent in Danish and German custody. He was arrested in Denmark visiting Nazi friends last year before being extradited to Germany in March.

His extradition, trial and conviction are all seen as setting international legal precedents. Under American freedom of expression rights, Lauck broke no laws in his homeland. His arrest in Den-

mark, which has liberal laws on political material and pornography, only followed strong pressure from Germany and a complaint that he was breaking Danish law on racial incitement.

While Lauck remained silent for most of his trial, his lawyer, Hans-Otto Sieg, argued he could not be tried in Germany for publishing material in the US. The judges ruled, however, that he was actively distributing material in Germany. That is an offence in a country where the constitution makes it a crime to deny, as Lauck has done, that millions died in concentration camps in a Nazi hol-

ocaust. His only complaint about Hitler's treatment of the Jews was: "It was far too humane."

The 43-year-old Nebraskan of German forefathers likes to describe himself as a "super-German". Using the name Gerhard, rather than Gary, and affecting a German accent in his English, Lauck poured out publications from his bungalow in Syracuse, glorifying the Third Reich and Hitler and declaring war on the Jews. Lauck, who sports a Hitler moustache and parts his hair just like the Führer, likes to be photographed wearing a Nazi shirt with a swastika armband.

Portugal in row over ancient art

CONTRIVERSY has broken out at the Portuguese archaeological park of Fox Coa, Europe's largest open-air museum of ancient rock art, barely a fortnight after it opened (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

US conservationists have publicly accused the Portuguese of using "well-intentioned but inept" methods to clean the engravings, which date back 20,000 years.

However, João Zilhão, the park's director, insists his methods "are absolutely correct".

Bossi's night at the opera brings chorus of derision

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

UMBERTO BOSSI, the leader of Italy's separatist Northern League, yesterday enlisted Giuseppe Verdi — born near Parma — in his pantheon of heroes. He caused uproar at Verona's open air opera festival during a performance of *Nabucco* by dubbing the composer a "Padanian patriot".

"Padania" is the name given by Signor Bossi and his supporters to northern Italy. The League won a third of the vote in some of the area's towns in

April's general election and he plans to declare Padanian "independence" next month by marching along the Po Valley from the French-Italian border to Chioggia on the Adriatic.

There was turmoil during the performance when the audience noticed Signor Bossi. As the *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves* ended, some called out "Long Live Bossi", only to be drowned out by incensed anti-separatists who whistled, booed and shouted "Long live United Italy!"

Signor Bossi seemed to have

a less than complete grasp of Verdi's work, however. He told reporters he admired *Nabucco* above all for its famous *Chorus of the Lombards* — to be heard in Verdi's *Lombardi alla Prima Crociata*, or the *Lombards on the First Crusade*.

Corriere della Sera pointed out that *Nabucco* was written "in a spirit of striving for national unity", adding: "What a blunder!"

Seeking to retrieve the situation, Signor Bossi said the slaves in *Nabucco* lamented "their lost and beautiful land".

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How the Russian military bear became a dog that lost its bark

By DOMINIC LIEVEN

COMMENTARY

LIKE the dog in the Sherlock Holmes story that failed to bark in the night, the failure of the Russian Army to assert its potential political influence during the past decade requires some explanation. The Army has had every reason and excuse to intervene. Forced back to its 17th-century borders, Russia has suffered a loss of territory, prestige and power such as one usually associates with catastrophic defeat in a major war. Within Russian society, the status and material position of the

officer corps has collapsed. Plummeting budgets and the disintegration of the conscription system have created military forces so weak in morale, training and discipline that they are constantly and easily humiliated by Chechen rebels. In these circumstances, in many countries the tanks would have been on the streets many years ago.

This has not happened in Russia for a number of reasons. Tradition is an important factor. The last

successful military coup in Russia occurred in 1931. Since then, the Army has steered clear of overt political intervention. The communist regime welcomed and strengthened the Army's apolitical traditions. It reinforced them by providing the generals with generous budgets and prestige, while creating institutional and other controls over the armed forces.

In the Gorbachev era the Army was dragged into domestic politics much against its will. In Georgia, and then the Baltic republics, commanders were forced by their political masters to intervene

against nationalist opposition movements and then disowned by the Kremlin when such intervention resulted in strong domestic and international criticism. The bungled coup of August 1991, whose leadership came much more from the KGB and Interior Ministry than from a divided and bewildered military high command, further emphasised the perils of military intervention in domestic politics.

Like other parts of the old communist nomenklatura, the officer corps since 1991 has had a very mixed fate. Many of the

brightest officers have left the service, though they have not done nearly as well in business as many former KGB officers and party bureaucrats. While most officers remaining in the Army have been forced to live in miserable conditions, Mr Yeltsin's Government has been careful to treat a minority of key units stationed near Moscow much more generously.

Under General Pavel Grachev's leadership, corruption and factionalism within the Army's higher ranks caused still further division and demoralisation. At present the Russian armed forces lack the

unity, competence or self-confidence to take upon themselves responsibility for ruling Russia. Lack of self-confidence is not of course, the hallmark of General Aleksandr Lebed. To secure his success in the summer elections, Mr Yeltsin in theory appointed him to overall control of security, law and order, and the armed forces. General Lebed is now attempting to exercise his theoretical power. Predictably, he is running into opposition from entrenched interests in the Kremlin.

It suits Mr Yeltsin to let the

barons fight things out among themselves. He lacks the power truly to control the interests they represent. He would also much rather postpone any confrontation with General Lebed, who enjoys wide public esteem.

The confusion over who, if anyone, controls Russian policy and the Russian Army in Chechnia reflects in-fighting in the Kremlin much more than a deliberate military challenge to civilian power.

The author is Professor of Russian Government at the London School of Economics.

Lebed pledges end to Grozny fighting today

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S national security adviser, General Aleksandr Lebed, signed a truce in the Chechen capital yesterday, halting all fighting from 9am today, and predicted that in the coming 48 hours he would also resolve the core issue of the bloody 20-month conflict.

In a stunning act of brinkmanship only hours before Russia's military was to blast Grozny to pieces, the former army officer shuttled through the night to secure a ceasefire and then capitalised on his success by drafting a new peace plan.

"I will come back with a draft political agreement in two days," the chain-smoking former paratrooper said after completing a day of detailed negotiations with Aslan Mas-khadov, the Chechen rebel chief of staff. "We will discuss it and sign it."

Despite his efforts, however, the situation remains desper-

ately fraught. At least 50 Russian servicemen were killed in a battle that erupted in the capital yesterday before the peace talks and continued after the truce was agreed, the Interfax news agency said. The agency quoted the Russian military command in Chechnia as saying that about 200 Interior Ministry troops, sent on a reconnaissance mission, had clashed with rebels in Minutka Square.

General Lebed refused to give details yesterday of his peace plan, which somehow must satisfy Chechen demands for full independence while keeping the republic linked to the Russian Federation. One plan already on the table calls for the withdrawal of all but a few thousand Russian troops and a referendum among the inhabitants of Chechnia on their status.

As though to confirm the

urgent need for a halt to the bloodshed, the Russian military gave fresh casualty figures yesterday — before the report of fighting in Minutka Square — for its losses during the latest fighting, saying that at least 406 troops had been killed, 1,264 wounded and 130 were missing, presumed dead. Rebel and civilian casualties are also thought to run into the hundreds.

Reports from Novye Atagi, the village south of Grozny where the negotiations were taking place, said that the two sides had worked out a nine-point ceasefire. The document envisages the partial pullout of Russian troops and Chechen forces from Grozny and the establishment of joint military police offices to guard against looting of property.

In addition, the agreement sets out permanent positions



President Yeltsin meets the media in a surprise appearance in the Kremlin yesterday, looking and sounding healthy and confident

for Russian and rebel forces and outlines in detail the dates and routes to be taken by withdrawing soldiers and guerrillas. The document also imposes a ban on all further hostilities.

As the two men met to thrash out the details, Grozny enjoyed an unusual respite

from more than two weeks of heavy fighting prompted by the rebel assault to seize the city on August 6. Unfortunately, most of the civilian population was not there to enjoy the calm: about half the estimated 200,000 inhabitants have fled to outlying areas fearing a Russian

offensive. Many of the refugees are unlikely to trust in the durability of the latest deal, after countless others have proved worthless.

The peace agreement in Grozny coincided with a no less spectacular event in Moscow, when President Yeltsin re-emerged in the Kremlin for

the first time in two weeks looking and sounding healthy and confident. The Russian leader even managed to joke about reports that he had secretly gone to Switzerland.

However, on a more serious note he upbraided General Lebed for not acting more decisively to resolve the

Chechen crisis. "One should remember," he said, "that he (General Lebed) constantly promised to his voters that he would solve the Chechen problem if only he had the power. Now he has the power. Unfortunately, no results can yet be seen as far as Chechnia is concerned."

Ailing Yeltsin shelters behind Kremlin tradition of secrecy

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE mystery surrounding President Yeltsin's health and whereabouts is part of a long and obsessive Russian tradition. Russia's leaders have always surrounded themselves with a cloak of secrecy, partly from security fears, partly from the wish to remain aloof from public gaze.

From the tsars to Brezhnev and his ailing Communist Party successors, officials have closed the doors on their rulers. Ill-health has been masked with excuses of "a heavy cold", serious operations have been described as routine check-ups.

Since tsars and party bosses needed to cower their people

with their omnipotence, they had at all times to give the appearance of personal command and complete control of the apparatus of the state. If ill-health prevented this, their underlings issued orders and decrees in their name, as happened for at least the last five years of Brezhnev's rule.

Western leaders were admitted only with reluctance to the inner sanctums of power, and were rarely invited into Soviet leaders' homes. Until she was publicly identified at his funeral, Western intelligence was unsure whether Yuri Andropov had a wife.

Mikhail Gorbachev tried to change all this traditional secrecy. Glasnost, for him, principally meant opening up the workings of the state. Even

this failed at times of crisis, such as the Chernobyl disaster. He tried to make himself and his family more accessible to the media, but this ran so counter to Russian tradition that his wife soon became intensely unpopular.

Democratic reform has eliminated media censorship: it is impossible now to hide major policy items, and press speculation has been rife on Mr Yeltsin's future.

And, although the Kremlin has reacted in the usual way, there are nowadays too many people with competing political views to cover up a political vacuum with secrecy. Sooner or later the facts of Mr Yeltsin's health will have to emerge.

Confident Simitis sets date for poll

FROM JOHN CARR
IN ATHENS

THE Greek Prime Minister, Costas Simitis, last night announced a general election on September 22 after obtaining the formal consent of President Stephanopoulos to dissolve parliament.

The Prime Minister is expected to win the election — if not by a landslide, then by a handsome margin. The conservative opposition, New Democracy, rivals the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement in the opinion polls, but it is plagued by the lacklustre image of its leader, Miltiades Evert. New Democracy rank and file will almost certainly demand Mr Evert's replacement, if, as seems likely, he loses the party its second election in a row.

When the Socialists chose Mr Simitis to succeed the late Andreas Papandrou, he pledged to serve out his Government's full term, which would have ended in October next year. However, close advisers talked him into calling elections to take advantage of his high personal popularity. He also wants a legitimate mandate to carry through long-needed economic reforms, and increase the pace of privatisation.

"If we had waited until next autumn, most of next year would have been spent as a prolonged election campaign, and much of the Government's work would come to a halt," said George Papandrou, the Education Minister and eldest son of the late

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Food for thought

John Carr 1550

Pol Pot sidelined as Khmer rebels turn capitalist

POL POT, the infamous Khmer Rouge leader, is alive but could soon find himself cornered and short of funds to pursue his struggle against both the Cambodian Government and a breakaway group led by Ieng Sary, a former right-hand man who allegedly plundered Khmer Rouge coffers.

In an ironic twist, the fanatical group, which abolished cash and blew up the central bank when it fought its way to power in Phnom Penh in 1975, is now breaking up in a fight over money and property. "Pol Pot is alive, but I think he is finished," a senior Thai military officer said at Checkpoint 6, just 150 yards from the Cambodian border opposite the heavily fortified, rebel stronghold of Phnom Malai.

Well-informed Thai sources and rebel Khmer Rouge put Pol Pot's likely present position at Anlong Veng, the Khmer Rouge headquarters in northern Cambodia. It is the base of the one-legged General Ta Mok, one of the group's most capable but ruthless military commanders and political hardliners.

Anlong Veng is in a less rich region, with fewer hardwood trees and fewer gems. Analysts speculate that, China having cut funds when the Khmer Rouge withdrew from the UN-sponsored peace process in 1993, the hardliners could soon be desperate for cash to buy weapons and ammunition.

The rebels, headed by Ieng Sary, 67, with military commanders Sok Pheap and Ei Kim Chien, are in charge of an area that includes Pailin, the centre of mining for precious rubies and sapphires, and hardwoods.

The Thai officer said that, if Pol Pot had died in early June, as had been rumoured, the Thai forces that watch the border — and monitor Khmer Rouge communications — would have heard. "At least there would have been a ceremonial funeral, but there



A battle over money and property is breaking up the Khmer Rouge. James Pringle reports from Checkpoint 6, on the Thai-Cambodia border

has been no sign of that," he said. Khmer Rouge rebel factions here insist they have not defected to the Phnom Penh side, though negotiations continue.

Analysts say Thailand will welcome the split because, if the rebel faction is recognised by Phnom Penh, and thus obtains legitimacy, Thai businessmen will once more be able to trade openly in Cambodia's depleted natural resources.

That trade was broken off officially after the Khmer Rouge withdrew from the UN peace process in 1993, but has



recently been quietly resumed by some companies. The rebel Khmer Rouge certainly seem flush with wealth, despite the odd bullock cart. They earn an estimated \$10 million (£6.5 million) a month from the sale of rubies, sapphires and hardwoods. On the Cambodian side of the border here, they drive Land Rovers bought in the eastern Thai seaboard town of Chantaburi.

Fighters sport trendy Ray-Ban sunglasses. Some of the leading cadres use mobile phones and watch worldwide news on satellite television. Thai sources say some have travelled on black market

Thai and Lao passports, have dabbled in Canadian property, and are educating their children in Thailand or overseas. Ieng Sary's children were earlier said to be at school in Britain.

Sam Rainsy, the Phnom Penh opposition leader, has suggested that the Khmer Rouge will be more dangerous to the Cambodian rulers if they do join the political process leading up to elections in 1998. A Khmer Rouge alliance with either of the two coalition parties would boost the chosen party's political campaign.

"The Khmer Rouge is damaged but not finished," said one analyst in Bangkok. "The new generation of younger cadres are able, and not widely known in Cambodia."

In Phnom Penh yesterday Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the First Prime Minister, said he would propose a 1994 law banning the Khmer Rouge be lifted, saying it would be possible to tackle national reconciliation directly. Prince Ranariddh said he and Hun Sen, the Second Prime Minister, had agreed that only King Norodom Sihanouk had the power to grant an amnesty to Ieng Sary, sentenced to death in 1979 by the then Vietnamese-backed Government for crimes against humanity.

Prince Sihanouk said he would consider such a move if asked by the assembly, but he still preferred the setting up of an international tribunal to try Pol Pot's ruling clique. A British mining adviser, Christopher Howes from Bristol, who was captured by the Khmer Rouge last March, was thought to be held at Anlong Veng, but nothing concrete has been heard of him.



Sculptor Cheng Yunxian displays a bronze in Peking of China's senior leader, Deng, who was 92 yesterday

Deng driven into shadows

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA'S senior leader Deng Xiaoping, 92 yesterday and the man whose economic reforms brought him national gratitude and made his country an international force, has been pushed into the political shadow by his chosen successor.

Moribund, incapable of intelligible speech — his daughters alone claims to understand him — and constantly rumoured to be on the verge of death, Mr Deng has not been seen in public for more than three years, although his children and official spokesmen regularly assert that his health is "excellent" for a man of his age. If his famous wish to attend the 1997 handover of Hong Kong to China is realised it will be a miracle beyond medical explanation.

With the patriarch's decline, the Deng family now hovers somewhere between isolation and disgrace. President Jiang Zemin, whose 70th birthday fell earlier this week, was designated "core leader" by Mr Deng in 1989 soon after the

Tiananmen killings, and is determined that the leadership struggle will not be affected by his mentor.

In the past two years, Mr Jiang has mounted an anti-corruption campaign which has resulted in the downfall, imprisonment, and in one case the suicide of members of the Deng clique. The most spec-

of party rules that forbid profit-making by leaders' families, no longer appears here. Nor does Rong, an entrepreneurial daughter.

Ding Peng, a niece involved in a scandal, is no longer prominent in Cantonese business. He Ping, Mr Deng's son-in-law, has been named by the FBI in a recent weapons

ernment of "wholly negating the Deng Xiaoping political line".

There is some truth in this. To deflect the attacks of disgruntled diehards who charge that the Deng reforms produced a society infused with corruption and crime, Mr Jiang now regularly offers warnings such as: "We must strictly ban the cultural trash poisoning the people and social atmosphere and not sacrifice culture and ideology merely for a short period of economic development."

This is a direct attack on Mr Deng's notion that while opening windows — in this case to the West — inevitably attracts noxious insects, the overall benefits are great.

In addition to Mr Jiang's own ambitions and his ingratitude to the man who made him, another black cloud in Mr Deng's old age is his widespread condemnation as the man who commanded the Tiananmen killings and subsequent national purge.

With the patriarch's decline, the Deng family now hovers somewhere between isolation and disgrace

tacular target was Chen Xitong, a Politburo member and mayor of Peking during Tiananmen, now detained for embezzling millions of pounds of official funds, some of which was used to build mansions in the capital or was spent on mistresses.

Zhifang, one of Mr Deng's sons, connected to Hong Kong business interests in defiance

smuggling case in San Francisco and is reportedly in disgrace.

So open is the attack on the Dengs that Pufang, the son confined to a wheelchair since his persecution during the Cultural Revolution, recently broke the embargo on Deng relatives speaking in public to hail his father's economic reforms and accused the Gov-

WORLD SUMMARY

India faces snub over test ban

Geneva: Australia and other countries were set yesterday to take the comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty for signature by heads of state in New York next month, regardless of the outcome of procedural wrangling in the Conference on Disarmament (Peter Capella writes).

Richard Starr, the Australian Ambassador, said it was essential to avoid paralysis and to present the treaty for wider international recognition. India is refusing to sign the treaty unless it is changed to include a commitment to full disarmament by the five declared nuclear powers.

Megawati holds settlement talks

Jakarta: Lawyers representing Megawati Sukarnoputri, the figurehead of Indonesia's pro-democracy movement, have agreed to discuss an out-of-court settlement with the Government in her dispute over her removal as leader of the Indonesian Democratic Party. If there is no deal in a week, the case will proceed, the trial judge said.

Mother Teresa on respirator

Delhi: In the latest of many bouts of illness, Mother Teresa, who will be 86 next Tuesday, is on an artificial respirator in Calcutta after being admitted to the intensive care unit of the Woodlands Nursing Home (Christopher Thomas writes). Doctors said her condition was not improving but that she had stabilised.

Sea mail

Johannesburg: Carlo Hoffmann, 11, is writing, by ordinary post, to Danielle Murray, an American girl of the same age whose message in a bottle he found on Robben Island, President Mandela's former prison. (Reuters)

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The capital and its famous men are the inspiration for Peter Ackroyd's novels that will only be finished at my death.

Interview by Mary Riddell

PETER ACKROYD is good about Charming Charlie since he takes in his warms then denies "Be careful, heavy boys" photographs of the downcast, crass, pale, and clear, oh dear, flapping and dishevelled so tragically.

There are world those think part of a financial who could his blunder Giacomo other quality an advance his next day.

In 1400 labour in the renders it a "It's not the divide it to the evenly one wouldn't be a lot of attention turned down because the their future."

"I am so inspired a vision that I've bothered I have the books will be want the most of them."

His latest novel America, which might have been well's secret country, to New England next month, edition of the geography of W. Different at the farm part.

"They're in a ravine that ished at an If the suggests. The does not. As a digger, still, banded across the lives of the from Blake. More the who left their He is a boy, resonance time and where which day universal is days. Off the

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How I lost my fear of dying

The capital and its famous men are the inspiration for Peter Ackroyd's opus that 'will only be finished at my death'. Interview by Mary Riddell

PETER ACKROYD was very good about the garden stool. Charming, really. Particularly since he had been so profuse in his warnings of its imminent demise.

"Be careful! you are quite a heavy boy!" he cried as the photographer stepped on to the doomed item. There was a crash, followed by a wail. "Oh dear, oh dear," said Ackroyd, flapping his arms like a large and disconsolate bird. "It was so frightfully expensive."

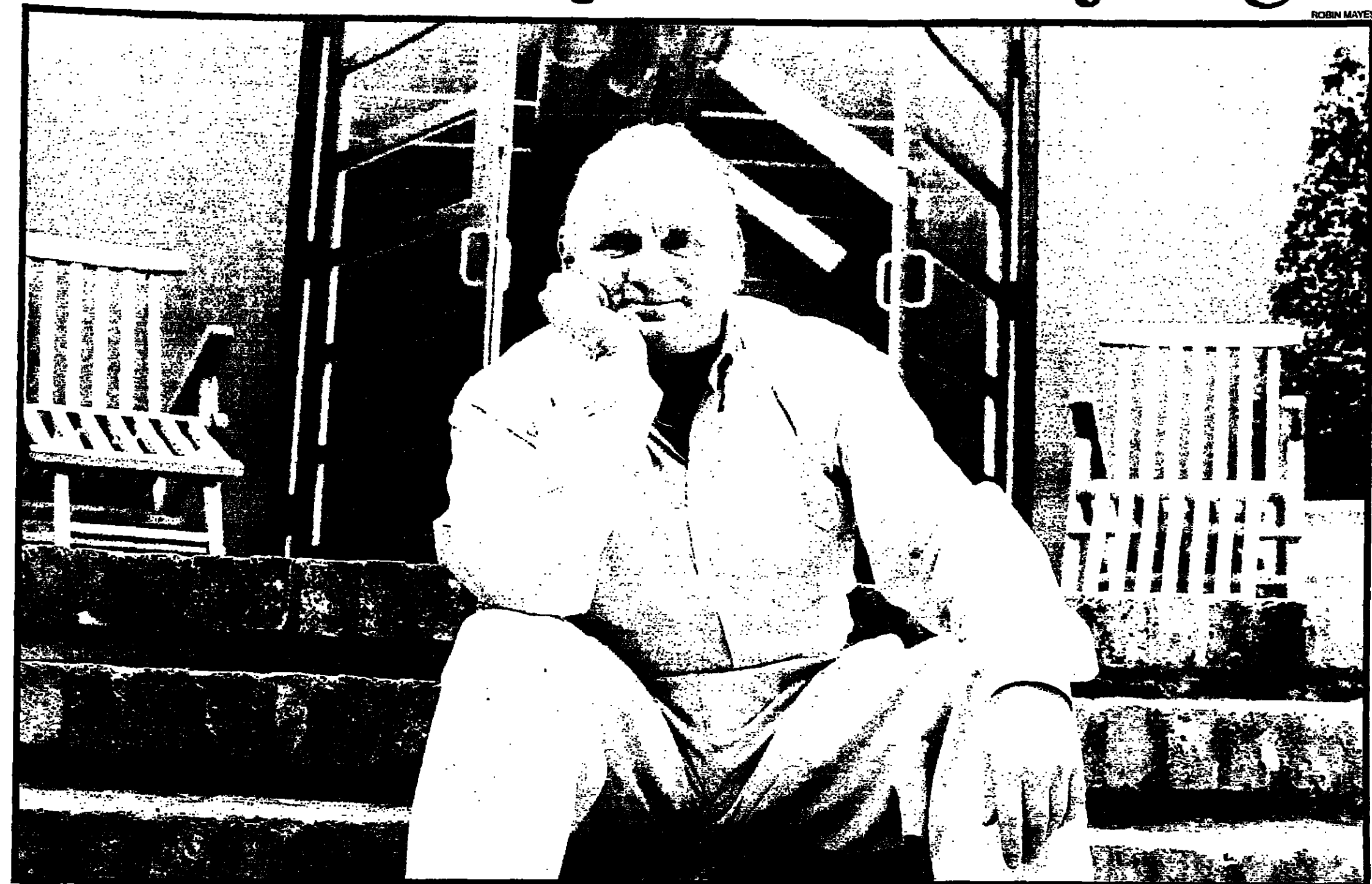
There are, in the literary world, those harsh enough to think patio furniture would be a financial bagatelle to a man who could, if he so wished, fill his Islington town garden with Giacometti statuary. What other author could command an advance of £1.25 million for his next eight books?

In Ackroyd's view, the hard labour he invests in his work renders it a modest contract. "It's not that much, if you divide it by ten years. I'm not exactly impoverished, and I wouldn't claim hardship, but a lot of authors would have turned down a deal like that because they wouldn't want their futures mortgaged."

"I am so intent on pursuing a vision that I don't want to be bothered. I know exactly what the books will be, and I just want the freedom to write them."

His latest novel, *Milton in America*, which explores what might have happened if Cromwell's secretary had fled the country to join the Puritans of New England, is published next month. The paperback edition of his acclaimed biography of William Blake will be released at the same time. Different as they are, both form part of a grand opus. "They're instalments of a narrative that will only be finished at my death."

If the scope of his work suggests Trollope, his canvas does not. Ackroyd is a grave-digger, sifting through the buried secrets of London and the lives of those visionaries — from Blake to Sir Thomas More (his current subject) — who left their stamp on the city. He is a believer in historical resonance, the circularity of time and other difficult notions which did not meet with universal respect in his earlier days. Of late, however, the



Peter Ackroyd says that as a child he wanted to be a tap dancer. "That was my favourite thing. Later I wanted to be a magician and an antiquarian — but being a novelist, you can do all of those things"

"dreadful, absolutely bonkers" school of book reviewer has stayed mute, while the ghostly, mystical world evoked by Ackroyd has increasingly achieved the cult status befitting a literary Doctor Who.

The first odd thing about him is his workplace — a vast, purpose-built room at the bottom of his garden. It does not look like the haunt of a modern philosopher; resembling, rather, a widget-making module on a light industrial estate.

His research files, square yards of them, are scrupulously ordered on a table the size of a squash court. This is the production line, where Ackroyd assembles his books with a speed and factory-style efficiency more appropriate to the manufacture of sliced bread than of great literature. Even

he acknowledges the mechanical nature of the task.

"It's minute — like a being a jeweller or something. A hell of a lot of work. I do sometimes wonder if it's worth it," he grumbles. But of course he is both a brilliant and a contented man; plump, expensively dressed, with smoothed yellow hair and the benign manner of someone orderly in both mind and lifestyle.

And still, just as the sanitised climate of Ackroyd's workshop betrays the dark nature of the London he describes, so the urbanity hides a bleaker side. Another Peter Ackroyd has been spoken of: a louche, hard-drinking figure; sprawled on sofas at literary parties, loudly propositioning men, generally heterosexual, who had caught his wandering eye.

Is he really so badly behaved? Not now, he says, but he was. "There was a point when Brian was ill when I started taking tranquillisers, and I drank with them. That was a very bad mistake to make and the cause of that sort of behaviour, those episodes."

Two years ago Brian Kuhn, his literary assistant and partner of 22 years, died of Aids. More than a lover or a workmate, he was also the man who helped to save Ackroyd's career when he nursed him through a nervous breakdown.

"I just woke up one morning with a great feeling of malaise. I was doing two books at once, and the overwork got to me. What happened? Well, nothing. I just didn't work for six months."

He is cautious only because he does not care to talk, or to write, of feelings. Though his work is spun on nostalgia, he is as he will acknowledge — an unsentimental man, dismissive of psychological and sexual themes ("If you want that stuff, you can turn on the television").

"I don't cry in public. I'm rather buttoned-up. In my case, what people call emotion goes on the page." How hard, then, to deal with the slow death of someone he loved. But he says it was not.

"It was difficult, but copable with. Brian didn't want anyone to know he was ill, so I didn't tell people. A nurse

came in once a week for the medication, but it was just me and him. It wasn't very nice, but it wasn't any heroic or romantic thing either — just doing what had to be done."

He was ill for four years before he died, and it was so obviously going to happen that when it did, it was a relief. Ackroyd worked on, translating some of the grim scenes of illness into his novel *The House of Doctor Dee*, but the harsher images have softened now.

"It made me not afraid of death. Brian was singing in his bath two days before he died, and I lost my fear of mortality as a result of seeing him. But yes, mine is a less unpleasant life than it used to be — a much more relaxed and happier and more interesting life, because when Brian was alive all my energy was directed at him and his illnesses. So now every day is a miracle in a way."

As for the drinking and the bad behaviour, a new contentment has rendered both an unnecessary distraction. "I've met someone else, and I'm happy. He works for me, as Brian did, but they are quite different in temperament and character. The marvellous thing about having a settled relationship is that you're freed of all those burdens of having to go out and meet people."

"I go to bed at 9pm and listen to Radio 3 and Classic FM. It's the only way I find to unwind and go to sleep. I was once told that people get the life they deserve."

Ackroyd's life — a minimalist affair stripped of tedious distractions such as cinema or theatre or holidays — began 47 years ago in a small house in the shadow of Wormwood Scrubs, where he was brought up by his mother and grandmother after his father deserted them.

As a child he had only one ambition. "I wanted to be a tap dancer. That was my favourite thing. Later I wanted to be a magician and an antiquarian — but being a novelist, you can do all of those things."

When Ackroyd, now *The Times*'s chief book reviewer, went to Cambridge, he had never read a novel. Still,

contemporary fiction holds less allure than the source material for his More book: "Erasmus, Saint Augustine, Luther: I have much more fun with that."

His worksheet is filled in until 2003 with biographies and novels: all pieces of his grand jigsaw. "When I realised I was inextricably linked with something — with London — subjects emerged as if

by magic. You can be ambitious and determined and energetic. But my good fortune was to find the medium."

"I realised gradually that I could write. I still don't think I'm all that good, but when I began I really didn't think I could write fiction. I thought I was hopeless. The whole vision built up as I became more interested in the city. Now I'm confident about the quality of

the writing — but I don't think I'm a good modern novelist; more of a freak, except that this sort of fiction has become more popular."

Although he is far too modest, his vision is never less than grandiose. "In the city, I explore myself and the landscape of the imagination." But do not think him a pompous man, for he is not.

Even as we ponder the

geography of the mind, from Limehouse to Clerkenwell, his mental London A to Z guide flips to a less spiritual location. Maids Vale, W9, to be precise. There, as he reminds me, one may obtain replacement garden stools.

● *Milton in America*: Sinclair-Stevenson, £15.99. *Blake, Milton, Virginia Woolf*: Both published September 2.

Valerie Grove is on holiday.

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'I don't think that I'm a good novelist: more of a freak'

rendered both an unnecessary distraction. "I've met someone else, and I'm happy. He works for me, as Brian did, but they are quite different in temperament and character. The marvellous thing about having a settled relationship is that you're freed of all those burdens of having to go out and meet people."

STARTING TOMORROW



Which author has sold the most books this summer — Bill Bryson, left, Stephen King, Nicholas Evans or Pat Barker? Find out in *Weekend Books* tomorrow in the new *Times* Bestseller List, the most authoritative guide to book sales now published in Britain

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Philip Howard



The spurious industry of public relations needs examining

In this long vacation, offices are full of "work shadows" preparing for their glittering careers by observing others at work. "Sir" Max Clifford, "Lord" Gummer and "Princess" Julia Carling have made public relations a popular option for graduates. For their benefit I reproduce a Redbridge Finals examination in Special PR Media English that has been leaked to us by a mole at the university printers.

Time allowed: Three hours.
Answer the questions you are asked, or any others you find more convenient. Candidates are warned that consulting a colleague will undoubtedly result in an incorrect answer.

1. a) Distinguish between the words recreation and recreation.

b) Invent a simple punctuation mark, called, say, a hyp-hen, which would render this exercise unnecessary.

c) Then use it to make such embarrassing breaks at line-endings as "People who are suffering from stress need to see analysts".

"He was sent to prison for the crime of manslaughter."

"His public relations endeavours were a legend."

"To save shopping, try buying your lingerie from a catalogue?"

and:

"Some people really hate using the telephone. They always find themselves disconnected."

2. Give an account of Humpty Dumpty's philosophy of language as expounded in *Through the Looking Glass*. Describe his influence on press releases, using as examples putative and parameter.

3. Your brother-in-law is a chiliast and has been unsettled by recent publicity. Write him a letter explaining why he need not stay up late on December 31, 1999.

4. "The impact of a metaphor increases as the meaning of its source becomes lost." Show how this statement may be applied to stereotypes.

5. A PR consultant walks at 4 km per hour from Mount Olympus to Olympia. Assuming that he stops for one hour at each taverna on the way, calculate his journey time. Does the adjective Olympia apply to his starting point or his destination?

6. a) Give the new musical notation required to accommodate the revised PR wording of the old sentimental song "... when I'm a man, / My action plan / Will be to marry you."

b) If a novel entitled *Convincement* had been written 200 years ago, what might it have been called?

c) Describe the economic theory propounded by Simplicio Simon.

d) Write a self-appraisal of your personal mission statement without pausing, deviation or repetition.

7. Is epicentre the comparative or superlative of centre? In either case, calculate the location of the epicentre of the Hiroshima nuclear explosion in the plane of our galaxy. Invent a suitable word for the ground surface located immediately beneath the bomb.

8. Complete the passage from *The Tempest* that starts "Full fathom five thy father lies..." Use this passage to demonstrate Shakespeare's surprising lack of imagination concerning the variety of possible applications of the expression sea change.

9. Give an account of the process of diffusion as applied to the rendering harmless of explosive devices.

10. Are the standards of public examinations in the United Kingdom (a) rising; (b) falling; (c) much the same as they always have been? Whatever your response to the first part of this question, how do you alibi it?

11. a) Explain why all sexist words must be avoided.

b) Is it permissible to allow *Dog & Duck* on the grounds that the words are of opposite genders and therefore cancel one another out?

c) What does a chair sit on?

d) If you were in the happy position of having it, would you flout it or flaunt it?

Jeffrey Gordon says even in rape cases the accused should be allowed to defend himself in person

Why we need the right of self-defence

The case of Rastan Edwards, who was yesterday found guilty of rape at the Old Bailey, has led to calls for the right to conduct one's own defence to be curtailed. The victim in this case was subjected to six days of cross-examination by Edwards — an ordeal for any woman. Yet it seems perverse to insist on representation in one case and not in another. Rape is not the only type of case where a victim might be intimidated or embarrassed. The distinction between rape and, for example, serious indecent assault could be technical indeed. There are many kinds of sensitive cases, from blackmail to domestic violence. It would be impractical, as well as wrong, to make an exception for rape alone.

At a time when the Lord Chancellor is seeking to put barristers and solicitors representing defendants under franchises (a kind of corporate state control), it would be wrong to prevent apparently maverick defendants from defending themselves. An intelligent layman might well have legitimate doubts about accepting a franchised lawyer. At present, the barrister or solicitor-advocate exercises complete independence of judgment, but under the new system a legally aided defendant might plausibly believe that his advocate was not fully independent.

Nor should we criticise the way the Edwards case was conducted. It was presided over by a wise and experienced judge, Ann Goddard, QC, who is more

than capable of presiding properly over a criminal trial. I well remember her as a most promising junior more than 30 years ago when she started at the Bar and when her late father, a retired chief detective superintendent of police, had changed his occupation in retirement and was assisting my practice in defence matters.

Rape cases have a particularly emotional aspect, besides complicated procedural rules concerning evidence, designed to protect the victim. However unpopular it may be to point it out, allegations of rape are sometimes falsely made in my own office currently we are dealing with such a case.

The climate was quite different a generation ago, when there were still echoes in this country of the Scottish Boys case, involving an utterly false allegation made against a series of young black Americans in the Deep South. Then it was politically correct to think in terms of how a man could so easily be convicted on flimsy evidence —

and in that case the electric chair beckoned.

Rarely these days does an accused person come into a Crown courtroom naked and unrepresented by a lawyer. Until well into the last century, by contrast, those charged at the Old Bailey with serious crime could not have the benefit of counsel to deal with the facts, but only to argue points of law, and advise them. The Trials for Felony Act of 1836 changed that. However, until 1898 such a person could not actually go into the witness box on his own behalf. Things have gone full circle now, with public outrage at the apparent expense of representation in court, notwithstanding the odd miscarriage of justice as a result of inadequate legal representation. It is a fundamental principle of the English common law that every accused person has a right to defend himself. If that right were refused, any conviction would automatically be quashed on appeal.

I have long held the view that legal

aid is very much for the benefit of the court system itself. With defendants represented by solicitors and barristers, order prevails both in the courtroom itself and behind the scenes. Representation gives defendants a feeling that justice is being done (even if possibly it is not).

Falling short of actual representation in court is representation by a legal adviser who does not actually act as an advocate. This is known to the Oxford English Dictionary as a McKenzie Friend. I am happy to have invented this practice nearly 20 years ago, when the Court of Appeal held that a man has a right to be assisted in court by someone falling short of an advocate. This right was later frequently used in poll tax cases.

The courts can run wild if a defendant is not represented, and it sometimes happens. On the other hand, an accused person must always be in a position to put his case. I can see no reason why a

person has to be represented, and certainly the legal profession makes no claim that it should be compulsory. The law must surely allow a person who has lost faith and confidence in the legal profession to represent himself.

It is right that no person charged with an offence of a sexual nature should cross-examine in person any witness who is a child. Not many years ago, two eminent solicitors said they would not represent anyone accused of rape, seemingly prejudging them guilty. Many lawyers found this distasteful, as should anyone concerned with liberty and a free and independent legal profession.

Trials have grown longer, and judges do not always exercise the control they should. This is often in the apparent interest of fairness, but Crown Courts might profitably learn from the experience of stipendiary magistrates, who often — and utterly fairly — try cases in half-an-hour that would take two days in a Crown Court. A long-winded barrister may extend the victim's ordeal no less than an unrepresented defendant. Perhaps even without statutory reform, judges should consider how to oblige lawyers and laymen who cross-examine to do so as briefly and relevantly as possible.

The author has practised as a solicitor since 1956 and is a past president of the London Criminal Court Solicitors Association.

Fools and their money

There is no end to the people willing to empty their purses into dubious speculations such as BCCI or Titan

What is it that draws me — and obviously draws thousands more — to back-to-back horror stories concerning money? We who are drawn know that there are two kinds in these stories: the plainly crooked ones whose feet can be heard tripping down the stairs to get away, and the equally plainly greedy ones who have lost their money (sometimes to the plainly crooked) because they were greedy.

Very well, you say, there are crooks and there are fools, and both of these types are so old that they go back to Adam and Eve, viz. "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." More plainly, I ask what is my favourite question in these matters: why do sane, decent people, again and again, persuade themselves that ten plus ten make fifty?

We don't have to go back to the great BCCI scam to find that there is a sucker under every tree. But the Titan Business Club, to give it its full name, did actually do that very thing. In this case, as many as 12,000 investors paid between £250 and £3,000 each to join the Titan Business Club. The new recruits were expected to recoup their money by persuading four or five other people to join up at ... meetings held around the country.

And as the story began to rise in the courts, it was Robert Miller of *The Times* who perhaps did most to alert the world to what was going on at Titan.

But listen to this: "Patrick Minford, one of Britain's most respected economists and a member of the inner circle of six 'wise men' who advise Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, was retained as a special adviser to the American version of Titan." Well, well, it seems that "one of Britain's most respected economists and a member of the inner circle of six 'wise men' who advise Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor," may not be quite up to seeing that two and two make four, not three and a half.

But let us now leave that "most respected" booby, and turn to those who were convinced that money would rain from the clouds if there are enough people to believe it. And every now and again there are enough people to believe it. For the Titan Business Club is only one of thousands — literally thousands — which try the old trick, again and again, and with a wink and a

nod catch their mouse. The hair of my hero, Tony Hetherington (of the *Mail on Sunday*) has gone grey repeating the rubric every — every — chain letter, whether it is the child's one, saying that it mustn't be broken or pussy will run away — to, well — look at Titan. But pussy's bewilderment does not take huge sums of money; yet the money the Titan swallowed was real money.

Come, I have money in my bank at roughly 5½ per cent, and the sum grows modestly. I am content with that tree and what grows on it. Now then: how does it come about that reasonably intelligent people somehow begin to believe that their 5½ per cent can burgeon overnight to 10 or 15 per cent or even more? But that is what they came to believe, and £17 million of their money has gone missing.

And to rub in the salt, the experts tell us that the money was not stolen but "lost". But I do not intend to go through the details of where the money went and why and how. What, for me, is fascinating in this story is what the people thought and said when they saw their money disappearing down a deep dark hole. We all like money and what it can bring us, which is roughly what the people who swarmed around the fatal BCCI believed. But where was the broken bridge, and why did the suckers not notice that the bridge was broken?

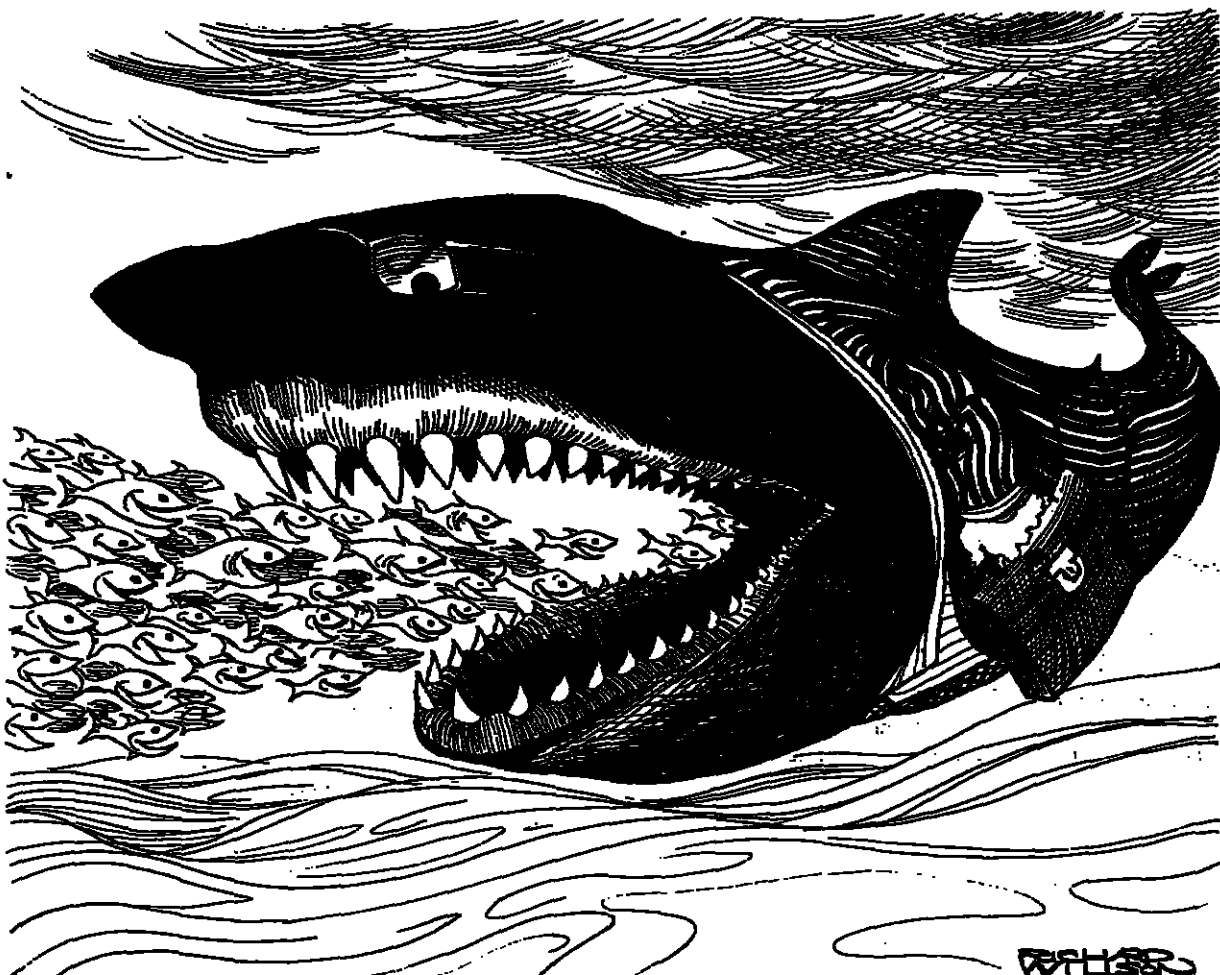
To this day, there are people who are still saying that they have been swindled by BCCI. But these people have forgotten how the catastrophe began. I for instance did not put my money — not a penny of it — in BCCI, though then BCCI shone like the evening star, and looked marvellous.

But why and how did it look marvellous? For, after all, there is only one way to measure marvellousness when we are talking about money. We talk about the golden gleam, and what the recipient will do with the new-made money, but that is all talk. And — believe it or not — the people who put their money into BCCI did so because the rates of return were enormously higher than anything they had previously met.

But now look at this, from *The Times* — only a few words: "Thousands of angry investors who joined Titan ... may form a protest group to recoup losses now believed to top £17 million, after the scheme was closed down in the High Court yesterday."

Oh, yes, they may form any number of groups, and dance round the maypole for hours and hours, but the £17 million will never come again. And my modest millions are safely stowed in a bank, but not — oh, not — in the Bank of Greed and Morplease.

Greed? Well, of course there is a substantial element in it, but I do not believe that it is only greed which is behind these crashes. The element I study looks the same as folly, but is not quite the same. It is something — only something — like the wheel in the gambling saloon, where people mutter: "One more throw and I can get my money back twice over."



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Now look at the end of the column to find the most corrupt country in the world. It is, not surprisingly, Nigeria, with 0.69 out of 10. But I find the second most crooked astonishing: it is Pakistan, with exactly 1 out of 10. Now Pakistan, everyone knows, is a savage and brutal place, particularly with its brutal religion, but to find that it is fifty-third out of 54 in the corruption league is alarming. After New Zealand, as exemplars of probity, we find Denmark, Sweden (boring, it is said), Finland (it once went galloping over the frozen ice pulled by a

pair of thundering horses), Canada, Norway and Singapore (but Singapore bullies and twists its way to success), Switzerland, The Netherlands, Australia, Ireland (humm), and us. We beat Germany, Israel, the United States, Austria, Japan, Hong Kong and the French (who are six places below us).

And so the corruption and fraud goes on, among the scammers, but also in governments and everything they touch. Be warned:

Corruption in trade and government procurement around the world has worsened, with companies offering illicit payments winning 80 per cent of their bids ... business newspapers and magazines almost read like police blotter ... state-owned industry officials demanding bribes, corporations making payments to politicians for contracts, costs of projects being inflated to cover kickbacks ...

Mutatis mutandis this must all be true throughout the world, including Britain. The Titan Business Club came from the United States, but when it reached our shores there were few to cry "No", and thousands who cried "Yes". And of those thousands who cried "Yes" and lost all their money, there are dozens who are even now looking for the same brand of mousetrap. And that will be the story to the end of time.

Silk swapping

SOME SERIOUS political mud-slinging will begin just when the Tories don't want it: days before the Conservative Party conference. A date in the first week of October has been set for the courtroom libel battle between *The Guardian* and Neil Hamilton, MP and former Minister for Corporate Affairs.

The action, arising from accusations in *The Guardian* that Hamilton accepted £2,000 from the Harrods owner Mohamed Al Fayed in return for placing parliamentary questions, could not have come at a worse time for either party of litigants.

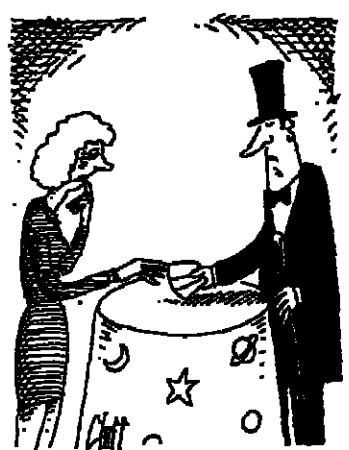
Neither *The Guardian* nor Hamilton, who is fighting the case with the political lobbyist Ian Greer, will be represented by their chosen counsels. George Carman, QC, who has been representing *The Guardian*, is booked in to perform on another action; Lord Williams of Mostyn, representing Hamilton, is involved with the Alan Sugar v Terry Venables case which falls during October.

"It was the only slot available for this action, which isn't very satisfactory," said one solicitor. Carman is likely to be replaced

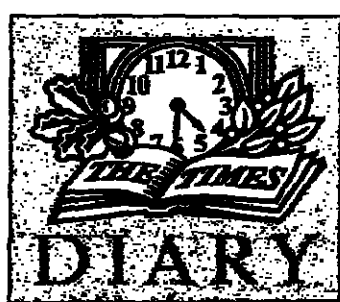
by the human rights expert Geoffrey Robertson, QC, while Richard Fergusson, QC, who worked on the Rosemary West case, is being lined up instead of Williams.

Big Bagel

FRESH from the British beaches where he has been trying to drum



"Pick a card — any identity card"



up single-wearing Labour supporters, John Prescott will next month adapt to a more sophisticated campaigning style.

He is to be the star turn at a power breakfast in New York organised by those pre-eminent Britons in the city's media nest, Tina Brown and Harold Evans. No croissant and cappuccino affair this, however: Britain's expatriates have insisted that the deputy Labour leader should be offered a mug of Tetley and a plate of bacon and eggs at the Royalton Hotel.

GREY GOWRIE, chairman of the Arts Council, enjoyed the Edinburgh Festival this year as never before. He found himself watching a small dance company of two chaps and four women, which he describes as "the most intense (non-participatory) erotic experi-

ence of my life". Much moved, he advised a hovering usherette "to put up a notice banning men over 50 for fear of cardiac arrest".

Hi-Jacked

ON HER return from a cruise around the Greek islands with her family and the Prince of Wales, my sparring partner Tara Palmer-Tomkinson appears to have wasted little time in picking a lunch date to boast about.

Yesterday the well-to-do model



Tara: lunch with hellraiser

popped out for a meal at San Lorenzo, a Knightsbridge haunt favoured by the Princess of Wales, with the hellraiser's hellraiser, Jack Nicholson. Jack, peaky after spending the previous night with a scantily-clad cast member of the appalling "erotic" musical *Voyeurz*, must have been overcome by Tara's intellect. For he whisked her straight away after lunch to the fancy jeweller Theo Fennell where he helped her to choose some baubles. And then it was on to a matinee of *Twister*, the cyclonic movie.

High hopes

THE Princess of Wales should put those plans to be a global ambassador on hold. Yasuyoshi Tokuma has other ideas. Tokuma, chief executive officer of Japan's Tokuma group, is confident that he can persuade the Princess to take the part of Queen Victoria in his forthcoming Chinese-Japanese film, *Opium War*.

Clearly a man whose glass is always half full, Tokuma is reputed to be offering a fee in the region of £1.8 million which would catapult the Princess above the likes of Holly Hunter and Andie MacDowell in the pay stakes. Should she drag her heels about the film, which is due to be released at about the



Rolling on: Keith Richards' old Bentley has been put up for sale

same time as Hong Kong is returned to the Chinese, the more media-friendly Duchess of York could certainly do with the money.

Rock car

NEXT month sees the auction at Christie's of a navy blue Bentley S3, former love wagon of the Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards. He bought "Blue Lena" in 1966 and

used it to ferry his harem to his mock-Tudor mansion in Sussex. The suspension has held up well in the light of Richards' rock-star shenanigans, while special features include a record player. According to one biographer: "Keith drove it with a lot of confidence. It boasted Turkish Embassy flags so that he would never get pulled over by the police."

P.H.S.

A man who has been found guilty of rape at the Old Bailey, has led to calls for the right to conduct one's own defence to be curtailed. The victim in this case was subjected to six days of cross-examination by Edwards — an ordeal for any woman. Yet it seems perverse to insist on representation in one case and not in another. Rape is not the only type of case where a victim might be intimidated or embarrassed. The distinction between rape and, for example, serious indecent assault could be technical indeed. There are many kinds of sensitive cases, from blackmail to domestic violence. It would be impractical, as well as wrong, to make an exception for rape alone.

The idea that a defendant should move to a mandatory, relatively recent, passed in 1988, and the defendant and victims of violence of 17. The point is, Edwards this year, argue that the law which would be

This week of historians — John Charnley — circumstances in entered opposition either on its own or in government. This examination History

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The second involving an additional schism, albeit one from the example is the 1940 Chamberlain's reluctant if Reform ripped the years before Conserva-

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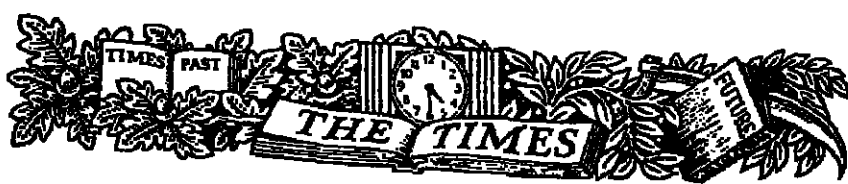
TREASURE

Tortoise versus ma

We regret to report the Galapagos island, which our home with our sentinels been allowed to grow by decades of brainwashing

A deadly virus has been on a disturbing scale. The creatures perishing bleeding profusely under choking to death on a own secretion. Doctor time to fight the disease, the stark truth: they simply causing the deaths. The predict the extinction of species. Of the 15 islands in 1935, five have already

The Galapagos islands, miserable state, overrun by sentinels from the Ecuadorian and ravenous goats. Lebensraum on land which most cherished symbols of the heritages of mankind. Ecuador must take the blame for why were farmers allowed to why was a game industry for tourism spring up on the island?



TRIALS OF RAPE

The law on representation is not best changed in anger

A man who chooses to defend himself has a fool for his client — or so the lawyers like to say. Events this week in the Old Bailey demonstrate that folly can be the least of the iniquities when defendants dispense with professional representation. The decision by Ralston Edwards, convicted of rape yesterday, to conduct his own defence and cross-examine his victim forced a traumatised innocent woman through a second painful ordeal. There is understandable pressure to change the law to ensure that victims are protected from a repetition of these circumstances. It would be both dangerous and wrong if victims were deterred from coming forward by the prospect of such cross-examination and offenders thus remained at liberty.

Care must be taken, however, not to alter procedure in such a way as to deprive defendants of their historic and legitimate rights. The right of an accused man to speak in his own defence is entrenched in our legal tradition as indeed, until recently, was his right to remain silent and have no inference drawn. Debate in the past had concerned the right to representation. As Jeffrey Gordon notes opposite, the role of counsel has been extended over time. Moreover, the development of legal aid has reflected society's feeling that poverty should never be a barrier to effective professional help.

The idea that professional representation should move from being a right to a mandatory requirement in certain cases is a relatively recent innovation. Legislation passed in 1988 and amended in 1991 prevents the defendant cross-examining in person victims of violent offences under the age of 14 and victims of sexual offences under the age of 17. The ordeal inflicted by Ralston Edwards this week has inclined some to argue that women should be protected by the law which currently shields children.

It would be tempting, but probably

wrong, to move quickly to change the law. There are other safeguards for victims which might wisely be deployed first, from screens in court to prevent eye-contact and more vigorous intervention from the judge to prevent questions which are gratuitous or irrelevant. It is already the case that the victim's previous sexual history should not be admitted as evidence. Judges should not feel they have to give those who defend themselves greater leeway because of their lack of legal knowledge if that freedom is abused to pursue a line of inquiry which is unnecessarily offensive or intimidatory.

Eroding the rights of defendants to choose how, and whom, to conduct their own defence, no matter how compelling the circumstances of any one case, could tilt the careful balance of the scales of justice. It is wrong in principle and could lead to unforeseen consequences in practice. Some defendants in recent rape trials, notably Austen Donnellan and Craig Charles, have only proved their innocence after the most difficult of processes. It would require careful thought before the rules of procedure could be changed in a way which might limit the defendants' freedom.

There is a stronger case for reviewing the whole nature of the law on sexual offences. It is more than 20 years since the Heilbrunn Committee conducted the last such examination. Its efforts led to subsequent changes in the law which granted anonymity to rape victims and altered the rules of evidence. The Law Commission could, with profit, examine how victims might be better protected without damaging the position of defendants. It should also study recent reforms abroad and consider all the delicate questions of consent. The impulse to ensure that no woman suffers as Mrs X did is natural and right but no one is served by anything other than a studied response after anger has cooled.

TORIES IN DEFEAT

The character of Opposition may shape its duration

This week on our pages three eminent historians — Robert Blake, John Grigg, and John Charmley — have looked at the circumstances in which the Conservatives entered opposition. Given that the party, either on its own or in coalition, has served in government for 70 of the past 100 years, this examination has a special importance.

History is not, of course, a simple deterministic process, but the past does offer invaluable insights. Gathering together the work of these scholars would suggest there are three distinct sets of occasion that have witnessed Conservative defeat, all with different implications for the time within which the party becomes a serious contender for office again.

In the first case, electoral loss was primarily instigated by public weariness with a prolonged stretch of Conservative rule or pronounced discontent with its performance. Internal discontent played a relatively modest role in proceedings. Such situations — 1929, 1964 or 1974 are examples — allowed for the party to regroup, exploit the mistakes of its opponents and be restored to former glory rather quickly. Even the catastrophic loss of 1945, widely blamed on the legacy of mass unemployment and failed appeasement, was reversed within six years in large degree because the party remained broadly united despite the Labour landslide.

The second type is far more serious, involving an additional serious internal schism, albeit one that falls short of major defections from the party. The classic example is the 1906 disaster where Joseph Chamberlain's relentless campaign for Tariff Reform ripped the Tories apart. It was ten years before Conservatives re-entered government and that as a result of war-time

coalition. A full 16 passed before a general election produced a Commons majority and even here the fracturing of the Left between a Labour Party yet to reach full maturity and two competing Liberal parties was essential.

In the final scenario divisions develop to such a degree that many supporters depart altogether. The Tories have had no such debacle since 1846 when young Peelites such as William Gladstone crossed the floor after the dispute on the Corn Laws. As a result, 28 years went by before a stable majority could be secured again. Similar ruptures afflicted the Liberals for two decades after the Home Rule crisis of 1886. In recent times the loss of the SDP in 1981 has helped to exclude Labour from Downing Street for nearly as long.

The reason why the last two categories produce much longer periods in the wilderness is not hard to deduce. As Robert Blake put it, under our electoral rules it is a safe bet that a divided party will lose. Because such an internally incoherent force is unlikely to exercise authority with distinction, this discipline represents a relative advantage for the first-past-the-post system. While the issues of the single currency and political sovereignty associated with the EU have not yet reached the crisis proportions of 1846 or 1906, they clearly have the capacity to do so.

As nervous Conservatives approach the next contest, and ponder the possibilities of opposition, they might contemplate the lessons of history. If present disagreement on the nature of European policy can be solved no better from Opposition benches, then the party may be due an uncomfortably long occupation of them — unless the issue of Brussels proves as devastating for Tony Blair as it has already been for John Major.

TREASURE ISLANDS NO MORE

Tortoise versus man: mismatch on Darwin's Galapagos

We regret to report yet more bad news from the Galapagos islands, that distant archipelago in which our science once shared a home with our sentiment, but which has been allowed to grow ragged and unkempt by decades of breathtaking negligence.

A deadly virus has hit Charles Darwin's giant tortoises, threatening them with death on a disturbing scale. There are reports of the creatures perishing by the score, bleeding profusely under their shells and choking to death on a strange foam of their own secretion. Doctors, struggling against time to fight the illness, are hampered by a stark truth: they simply do not know what is causing the deaths. The gloomiest forecasters predict the extinction of an entire subspecies. Of the 15 subspecies which existed on the islands when Darwin landed in 1835, five have already disappeared.

The Galapagos islands are today in a miserable state, overrun by land-hungry settlers from the Ecuadorian mainland. Subsistence farmers, cheap-shack bar owners and ravenous goats all jostle for *Lebensraum* on land which is still one of the most cherished symbols of man's progress. For the ghastly decay of this common heritage of mankind, the Government of Ecuador must take the blame squarely.

Ecuador owes the world an explanation. Why were farmers allowed to settle on the Why were farmers allowed to settle on the Galapagos? Why was a garish, unplanned "service" industry for tourists allowed to spring up on the islands? Why, of all the

mighty follies, were goats allowed to be introduced into this fragile, unique ecosystem? Did Quito not realise that these intruders on Darwin's laboratory would rob the Galapagos forever of the very qualities which draw tourists to them in the first place? As a result of the human presence, raging fires have broken out (as the one which devastated the island of Isabela in April 1994), animals hunted, giant tortoises poached for food and new sickness introduced. Ecuador has squandered the wealth of this insular treasure trove.

It is never easy to reconcile the preservation of a fragile environment with the need of an impoverished population to make a living. But the options chosen by Quito have been the very worst of all: the population is still no richer, while the Galapagos islands are now considerably, and perhaps irretrievably, poorer. If the tortoises die, the islands will not be a destination of any substance.

The new Ecuadorian Government must give urgent consideration to a break with the past. Legislators in Quito must amend the country's Constitution, which entitles any citizen to settle in any part of the country as of right. This right of settlement ought not to extend to the singular ecosystem of the Galapagos. Darwin's tortoises, and their age-old companions of the Enchanted Isles, deserve to be left to live as they have for thousands of years. Man does not belong there, except as a heftily charged, carefully supervised day-tripper on a boat.

Changing roles of Crown and State

From Mr Bill Kearns

Sir, You report today Lord Blake asking "why change an institution [the monarchy] which has worked for centuries?"

The proposition that it has worked is itself debatable, but above all it should be abolished at the end of the present Queen's tenure because the institution is and always has been incompatible with democracy.

Yours ever,
BILL KEARNS,
11 Court Royal Mews,
Northlands Road,
Southampton, Hampshire.
August 21.

From the President of
Australians for Constitutional
Monarchy (UK Branch)

Sir, The publicity being given to reforms of the constitutional monarchy in Britain must surely demonstrate both the adaptability and responsiveness of the Crown as a political institution.

Of course, it is not a matter only for the Royal Family, as all subjects have a vested interest in maintaining the Crown's position in the constitution as a guardian of the whole public interest against the activities of partisan governments.

But it is nevertheless salutary to contemplate the ability of such a denigrated institution, in consultation with the party politicians, openly to discuss further restrictions to its traditional powers and privileges. What politician would ever contemplate a decrease in his or her own power and prestige?

Reforming the inessentials will give hope to many in the Commonwealth that specious objections to the present constitutional monarchies in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and elsewhere will now fade away.

Republicans will certainly have to come up with more substantial arguments to demonstrate why abolition of constitutional monarchies will be an improvement, something they have so far conspicuously failed to do.

Yours faithfully,
MATTHEW WHITE, President,
Australians for Constitutional
Monarchy (UK Branch),
c/o 10 Fowlmire Road,
Shepreth, Nr Royston, Hertfordshire.
August 20.

From Mr J. D. C. Harte

Sir, The most deeply embedded aspect of the establishment of the Church of England is its role as custodian of a major part of the national heritage.

Around half of Grade I listed buildings alone consist of cathedrals and parish churches. Unravelling the special law on historic church property would be a truly monumental task.

In a secular society, establishment may eventually be reduced to state recognition of the Church of England as a custodian of the national heritage akin to English Heritage and the National Trust. However, if such a custodian is to remain part of the Christian Church, its relationship with the State must include legal recognition of its religious nature.

The national Church could doubtless be deprived of its role as guardian of its buildings or it could be changed into a secular body for holding those buildings, some of which would still be used by religious congregations. In either event it would be more accurate to speak of dissolution of the Church of England than "disestablishment" as does your report (August 20).

The relationship with the monarchy is a very different matter. If talk of disestablishment really means separation from a formal relationship with the Christian Church it would be more accurate to refer to that as secularisation of the Crown.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HARTY (Senior Lecturer),
Newcastle Law School,
University of Newcastle,
21-24 Windsor Terrace,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
August 20.

From Mr Henry von Blumenthal

Sir, I am in favour of abolishing the Civil List. The present system benefits the taxpayer at the expense of the Queen, but enables mischievous journalists to claim the opposite. The Queen therefore gets the worst of both worlds, and as a taxpayer I am willing to take what will amount to a small personal financial loss to remedy the obvious injustice.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
HENRY VON BLUMENTHAL
(Council member),
The Monarchist League,
BM Monarchist,
London WC1N 3XX.
August 20.

From Mrs Jennifer Miller

Sir, Although the invaluable public work of some dozen members of the Royal Family ("Shrinking the clan", August 20) is given in the Court Circular, it should not be forgotten that the engagements of Prince and Princess Michael of Kent are not listed therein.

They also conform to the usual high standard of our monarchy by fulfilling a number of engagements for good causes, and acting as patrons for various charities.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER MILLER,
2 Heathview Gardens, Putney, SW15.
August 20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Economic solution to Jordan unrest

From Dr M. Riad el-Ghonymy

Sir, Your report of August 19 suggests that things are returning to normal in Jordan after the bread riots were suppressed with "an iron fist".

This incident, like those occurring in other countries, suggests the failure of governments and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to understand that, in the absence of special measures to protect the poor, economic reforms in general and the removal of food subsidies in particular, have a social cost.

Such measures usually result in greater inequalities and a sharp rise in unemployment and poverty. In the case of the removal of the bread subsidy, there is often a failure to appreciate its special importance, expressed by the Arabic word for bread — *عيش* — meaning life and survival.

Bread rioting in Jordan provides a typical example of the response of the poor to economic hardship caused by a tremendous rise in living costs. The Government, instead of blaming foreign elements for instigating bread riots, would find the real cause on page 44 of the Arabic version of its excellent *Economic and Social Development Plan, 1993-97*, which singles out Karak, where riots began on August 16, as having the highest level of absolute poverty in the country.

From the family expenditure sur-

veys of 1987 and 1992, and based on the share of the poorest fifth of the population of the total bread subsidy, I estimate that only eight million Jordanian dinars (approximately £7 million), or less than 1 per cent of total government expenditures, is required to maintain bread subsidy for this poorest section of the population only.

If budget spending cuts are essential, this meagre amount could easily be taken from other non-essential items such as military and foreign-debt interest payments, which absorbed 43 per cent of the total budget of 1991-92, published by the IMF in 1993.

Jordan should learn from the bitter experiences of Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia and say no to the IMF with regard to the removal of bread subsidy, and learn from Tunisia how to protect the poor during structural adjustment. The government solution of the bread-riot crisis by way of military oppression, imprisonment of rioters without trial and dissolving parliament is unfortunate so soon after the successful Jordanian experiment with parliamentary democracy.

Yours faithfully,
M. R. el-GHONYMY
(Senior Research Associate),
International Development Centre,
University of Oxford,
21 St Giles, Oxford.
August 20.

Reform of civil law

From the Vice-President of the Law Society

Sir, Raising the small claims limit to £25,000, as Mr T. M. Halliwell suggests (letter, August 14), is not the way to increase access to justice, particularly if the Legal Aid Board persist in their present view that cases being dealt with by arbitration do not merit legal aid. Going to court, whether arbitration or trial, is a difficult and stressful experience for most people and many will simply not pursue cases without legal help.

If costs are not recoverable from the losing party at all (as is presently the case in the small claims court) only those with claims at the upper end of the value spectrum or the confident citizen will seek justice from the courts.

There is already evidence from the National Audit Office study on small claims that unrepresented plaintiffs fare badly against represented defendants. Increasing the small claims limit could easily be a charter for the well resourced litigant to defeat the ordinary citizen.

Moreover, Mr Halliwell may have misunderstood Lord Woolf's propos-

als. Only the more straightforward claims with a value of under £10,000 will be allocated to the fast track: the simpler procedures, the plaintiffs offer to settle, and tougher sanctions for failing to comply with timetables should all mean that cases can be litigated for costs which are proportionate.

But, in any event, Lord Woolf is only recommending limits on costs recovered from the other party, not solicitor and own-client costs. So litigants will be free to judge the costs-benefit equation themselves, and pay their own solicitor more if they think the case merits it.

Both Professor Zander ("Woolf report in sheep's clothing", Law, August 6) and Mr Halliwell should listen to the views of consumer organisations and those they represent. They strongly support Lord Woolf's attempts to level the playing field. Provided that the procedures on the fast track, and the fixed costs, are fair and reasonable, the Law Society does so too.

Yours faithfully,
PHILLIP SYCAMORE,
Vice-President,
The Law Society,
113 Chancery Lane, WC2.
August 15.

Security of clergy

From the Reverend John Camp

Sir, The Bishop of Barking (letter, August 17) is undoubtedly right to ask that the House of Bishops should consider the question of the security of clergy.

One particular matter of concern is the lack of training for clergy in dealing with people with mental disorders.

As a psychiatric hospital chaplain I occasionally speak to gatherings of clergy about mental illness and I am consistently dismayed at the lack of knowledge revealed.

Moreover, some clergy seem to think that they acquired expertise in this area automatically when hands were laid upon them at ordination. It is not so; and, while there is no substitute for experience, better education would at least provide an awareness of some of the problems which can arise and how to deal with them.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CAMP
(Chaplain),
St Andrew's Hospital,
Billing Road, Northampton.
August 17.

Informal degrees?

From Mr F. Leffley

Sir, I have today received a prospectus from one of the "new universities", Humberstone University. To my dismay, I find that some degrees are being offered without formal examination. For example, BA(Hons) Architecture. Assessment: "There are no conventional written examinations because the subject is better suited to assessment by assignments and design projects." BA(Hons) Interior Design. Assessment: "Critique and final show degree work."

In my opinion, the granting of any bachelor degree without some kind of formal examination debases the value of that degree. What guarantee is there that the assignment work is the actual work of an individual student? Where is the academic rigour?

Yours sincerely,
F. LEFFLEY,
Sandwood, Millhouse Lane,
Hook Road, Goole, East Yorkshire.
August 19.

Business letters, page 29

Because of the delays resulting from the postal strikes it would be useful, where possible, if letters intended for publication could be faxed to 0171 782 5046.

Stars and flags on identity cards

From Mr Jeremy Stanford

Sir, Ultimately the Government has only itself to blame, in compounding its errors of judgment over the issue of a national identity card, by trying to combine it with the new European driving licence to be issued next year.

If such a card is eventually issued as proposed (report, August 22; see also letters, August 20), Britain will become the only country in the European Union in which its citizens' national identity card promotes the European flag. Most European identity cards carry no flag at all, merely a national symbol. Belgium's card, for example, carries its royal coat-of-arms.

The best advice to Michael Howard would be to develop amnesty over the wholly unnecessary national identity card project, which cannot be justified on the grounds of being effective against crime and arouses anger and suspicion amongst patriots, libertarians and minorities alike.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY STANFORD,
Flat 3, 306 Fulham Road, SW10.
August 22.

From Mr Gerard Finan

Sir, All the squawking and whining about identity cards and flags, European stars and national sensitivities, amazes me.

I was born and educated in Britain but have spent the past 35 years in Germany, the last 15 of them as a German citizen. Only when passing through immigration at European airports, at the post office when collecting a parcel or in comparable circumstances, have I been asked to show my identity card, which contains my name, address, date and place of birth and photograph. It also has a barely recognisable green eagle as the national emblem.

Even British citizens are sometimes required to supply their name and address. The only difference is that my information is reliable and verifiable because everyone has to be registered with their municipal authorities. This makes it easier to trace people, which can be very helpful in emergencies.

Of course the British have this "tradition" of privacy. But surely only people with something criminal to hide need fear the police? Let us jettison some of the misguided and hypocritical liberalistic ideology of yesterday. Let there be compulsory ID cards for the good of law-abiding citizens.

Yours faithfully,
GERARD FINAN,
Abstrasse 33, 53225 Bonn.

From Mr Charles Hope

Sir, I still have my "National Identity Card" issued in Edinburgh in 1940. The only indication of "which nation" is given by the Scottish royal arms on the front cover.

If, when our backs were to the wall, the distinction could be made between the constituent nations of the UK, surely the situation could be resolved in a similar way when there is no such pressure.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES HOPE,
Woodside, Oakham Road North,
West Horsley, Surrey.
August 20.

Judaism in Ukraine

From Ms Linda Kann

Sir, Your article on anti-Semitism in the Ukraine (August 19) needs to be put in the perspective of the wonderful resurgence of Judaism which is also taking place there.

This organisation's Exodus 2000 committee, formerly dedicated to assisting refugees to leave the USSR, supports several burgeoning Reform Jewish communities in the Ukraine, Russia and other countries of the former USSR. A number of our synagogues here are in direct contact with emerging groups of young Jews who, notwithstanding a history of tsarist and communist persecution, wish to remain in Eastern Europe and build Jewish life there. They are enjoying some small success.

At our Leo Baeck college for progressive rabbinical training there are young Russian and Ukrainian students of both sexes who intend, on ordination, to return home and minister to new communities. Anti-Semitism has never succeeded in extinguishing the eternal flame of Jewish faith and will not do so now.

Yours faithfully,
LINDA KANN
(Co-ordinator, Exodus 2000),
Reform Synagogues of Great Britain,
80 East End Road, Finchley, N3.
August 20.

Fashion victim

From Mrs Karen Taylor

Sir, Having read that a baby is now the ultimate male fashion accessory, especially when dressed like daddy (Style, "It's cool to be a daddy", August 14), I have a problem. I refuse to put my five-month-old son in jeans, so can someone please tell me where I can purchase an all-in-one sailor suit to fit a 6ft 2in, 15-stone man?

Yours faithfully,
K. Y. TAYLOR,
3 Rectory Court, Old Barwell Road,
Locking, Somerset.
August 14.

NEWS

Court ordeal for raped woman

The Government is to examine a trial in which a convicted rapist was allowed to cross-examine his victim in court for six days about the intimate details of her ordeal.

Ralston Edwards, 42, exercised his legal right to represent himself when he appeared at the Old Bailey accused of raping a 34-year-old mother of two in an attack lasting 16 hours. After the jury found him guilty on two counts of rape, his victim said: "I feel like I have been raped twice"..... Pages 1, 3

Thousands to be freed after bungle

Five hundred prisoners are facing imminent release from jail because of a legal blunder over the way in which "consecutive" sentences have been calculated. Up to 5,000 prisoners are also likely to have their release dates brought forward following a review..... Page 1

Yeltsin goes private

Boris Yeltsin's favourite grandson is being sent to one of England's most expensive independent schools. Young Boris, 15, will board at the £15,000-a-year Millfield School, Somerset..... Page 1

A level tables

Leading state schools step up their challenge to independent education in the fifth annual Times A-level league table detailing this summer's results from more than 720 schools..... Pages 1, 6

Identity crisis

The Home Secretary Michael Howard announced that his controversial identity card scheme will be extended to children as well as adults..... Page 2

'Too friendly' ITN

The Independent Television Commission has criticised ITN chiefs over an interview with John Major conducted last month by Trevor McDonald because it was "too friendly"..... Page 4

Family fame

A family staked its claim as the brightest in Britain when 16-year-old Roman Astin earned 11 starred-A passes at GCSE to add to his brother Ciaran's five A grades at A level..... Page 7

Surgical struggle

Women who require breast reduction surgery are struggling to obtain the operation, in spite of real benefits..... Page 8

Taste of defeat for the Polo slogan

The makers of Polo mints failed to protect their £4million market after trying to stop a rival from using a similar advertising slogan. Nestlé UK, makers of Polo, "the Mint with a Hole", wanted a ruling that the British launch of an older American version, called Lifesavers, could not use the words "the Original Mint with the Hole"..... Page 5

Ancient graves

Archaeologists have discovered graves of the ancient British ruling class, forced into submission by the Roman invasion. The site, near Colchester, contains the bones of aides of Cunobelin - Shakespeare's Cymbeline..... Page 9

Threat to tortoises

A disease has killed giant tortoises in the Galapagos sparking fears that an epidemic could devastate some of the world's most fascinating creatures..... Page 10

ANC apology

Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's First Deputy President, gave the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, an apology for atrocities committed during the struggle against apartheid..... Page 11

Burning Clinton issue

President Clinton is to approve the toughest crackdown on the tobacco industry since the Surgeon General linked smoking and lung cancer in 1964..... Page 14

Belgium mourns

Belgium mourned and buried two eight-year-old girls starved to death by a paedophile gang whose activities have prompted an international search for other missing children..... Page 15

Grozny truce

Russia's national security adviser, General Aleksandr Lebed, signed a truce in the Chechen capital..... Page 16



Zara Phillips with her father, Captain Mark Phillips, at the Pony Club championships at Weston Park, Shropshire, yesterday

BUSINESS

Economy: The Bundesbank surprised financial markets with an aggressive cut in interest rates that was interpreted as an attempt to keep plans for a single currency on track..... Page 25

Tobacco: A further £750 million was wiped off the market value of BAT, the tobacco and financial services company, because of US legal and regulatory challenges..... Page 25

Football: The Inland Revenue has launched a wide-ranging investigation into the transfer of as many as 80 footballers from European clubs into the Premiership..... Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 19.0 to 3891.1. Sterling rose from 84.7 to 85.1 after a fall from \$1.5508 to \$1.5485 but a rise from DM2.2975 to DM2.3162..... Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: England scored 278 for six on the opening day of the final Test against Pakistan at the Oval. John Crawley, of Lancashire, was 94 not out at the close..... Page 48

Football: The recall of Matthew Le Tissier and the introduction of David Beckham are the most eloquent statements of intent in the first England squad chosen by Glenn Hoddle..... Page 48

Golf: Paul Broadhurst scored a course record 62, nine under par, in the first round of the German Open in Stuttgart to lead the field by one stroke..... Page 42

Motor racing: Damon Hill aims to improve on the poor starts that have cost him valuable places in the last three races when he competes in Belgium..... Page 41

ARTS

Bad beginning: Two months after its royal opening, the Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts, supported by Paul McCartney, is in financial difficulty..... Page 32

Theatre flop: Although filled with great Sixties music and plenty of hippy nostalgia, Jim Cartwright's *Kiss the Sky* does not have a lot to recommend it..... Page 32

Rock dance: The once-beloved Jeffrey Ballet of Chicago, now riding high thanks to a ballet with music by Prince, is heading for the Festival Hall..... Page 33

Chart success: New albums this week include releases from Pearl Jam and Mike Oldfield and a look at Cardiff-born Donna Lewis, who is at No 2 in the American singles chart..... Page 34

FEATURES

Loathe-hate relationship: The Marquesa de Varela is an international fixer for *Helio* and Maggie Koumi is its editor - but do they get on together?..... Page 18

Childhood memories: Catherine Stoye remembers her grandfather, H. G. Wells, ahead of a two-part TV programme on his life to be shown this weekend..... Page 18

Mary Riddell interviews Peter Ackroyd, who "manufactures books more on the lines of sliced bread than of great literature"..... Page 19

EDUCATION

A-level results: When the top three state schools do better than Manchester Grammar it is time to sit up and take notice..... Page 36

The fun years: Choosing a degree course with a difference could provide three years of fun..... Page 36

Going away with Sally: The Salvation Army is helping deprived children to get away from it all by taking them on holiday..... Page 36

THE PAPERS

Naturally Yeltsin wants peace in Chechnya. But the fact it is obtainable only through major compromises or painful self denial runs counter to his picture of the world. He's been told often enough the alternative is a scorched earth policy. Either he doesn't understand or it leaves him cold..... Page 21

— Bonn General Anzeiger

TOMORROW

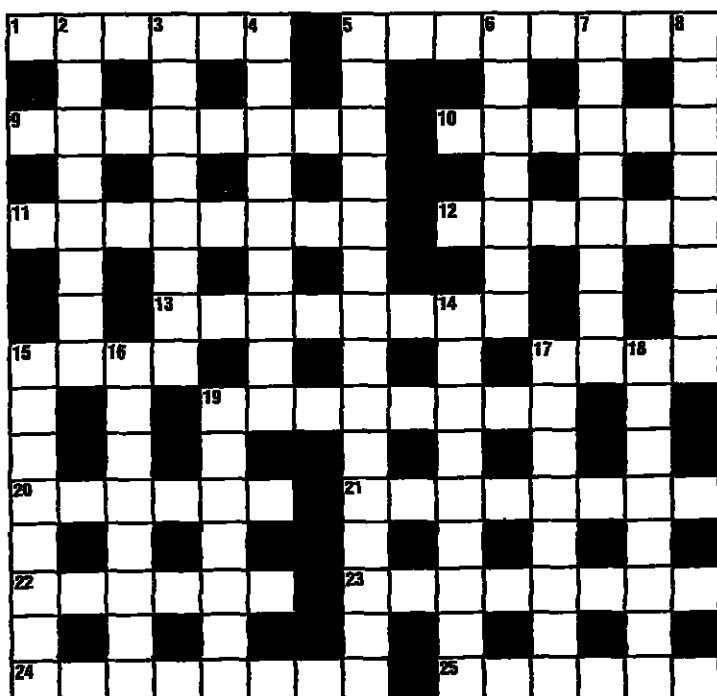
IN THE TIMES

■ CYCLE WARS
Why getting on your bike does not necessarily mean a smoother ride

■ BESTSELLERS
The Times introduces Britain's most comprehensive and fascinating list of bestselling books



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,254



- ACROSS**
- 1 Crazy plan helpful officer put in (8)
 - 5 Beetle's sick feeling (8)
 - 9 It's more normal for the ordinary undergraduate (8)
 - 10 Team of lawyers chronicled country (6)
 - 11 Person wrongly holds physician to be a baboon (8)
 - 12 Fluid state of mind (6)
 - 13 Quixotically attacked natural power source (8)
 - 15 This mineral layer's pronounced empty (4)
 - 17 Speculator sees period of growth cut short (4)
 - 19 To split a prize appears eccentric (8)
 - 20 Ferment as chairman finally goes on holiday (6)

Solution to Puzzle No 20,253

MIDSHIPMAN SCUM
A A O U S
M A R G U E R I T E A N O N
A T S R C I E
G E N E R A L I T I E S
P A W O R V I
E X C L A I M E D C H E E R
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L O O P C O R D O N B L E U
L A R I C O R
O D O S S T R I D E N T L Y

- 21 Clumsy salesman about to interrupt one at head of queue (8)
 - 22 Man no longer uses this sort of coffee (6)
 - 23 Digs gold out in margins of goldfields (8)
 - 24 After-effects of battle on corps (8)
 - 25 Word used to approve true love (6)
- DOWN**
- 2 Lovely party held in fields (8)
 - 3 Entertainment unfinished - admit disappointment (8)
 - 4 One dependent on receiving pounds or pennies (9)
 - 5 One old man, all charm - unusual in a statesman (6,9)
 - 6 Slow to develop chant book (7)
 - 7 Man entitled to reckon bombs are over (8)
 - 8 Reserved enclosure in which formal procedure is drawn up (8)
 - 14 One must watch what one says (3-6)
 - 15 No citizen wants endless foul beer (8)
 - 16 Where film may be kept from public (2,6)
 - 17 No longer allowing use of amalgam (8)
 - 18 Severe father in a punch-up (8)
 - 19 Scientist changes end of shift (7)

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5:59 am Sun sets: 8:06 pm
Moon sets: 3:47 pm

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have sun and showers, with some showers heavy and thundery. Eastern counties will have longer outbreaks of heavy rain. Windy in the South. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have bright intervals, mainly in the west, but also showers. Over eastern and northern Scotland there will be some longer spells of rain.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England: early rain, then sun and showers. Wind mainly southwest fresh, perhaps strong.

Central S England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, N Ireland: sun and showers, some heavy and thundery.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Sea
London	12	10	10	10	10
Edinburgh	10	10	10	10	10
Belfast	10	10	10	10	10
Cardiff	10	10	10	10	10
Manchester	10	10	10	10	10
Birmingham	10	10	10	10	10
Nottingham	10	10	10	10	10
Leeds	10	10	10	10	10
Sheffield	10	10	10	10	10
Coventry	10	10	10	10	10
Warwick	10	10	10	10	10
Gloucester	10	10	10	10	10
Bristol	10	10	10	10	10
Exeter	10	10	10	10	10
Plymouth	10	10	10	10	10
Cardiff	10	10	10	10	10
Belfast	10	10	10	10	10
London	10	10	10	10	10

ABROAD

Alonso	29	84	Corru	29	84	Madrid	26	79	Rome	29	82
Alonso	29	84	Craghen	29	84	Managua	29	84	S.Frisco	29	82
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Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
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Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
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Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15	50	Managua	29	84	S.Paulo	26	79
Alonso	29	84	Dudley	15							